美味しんぼ

23

雁屋 哲・花咲アキラ

スピリッツコミックス好評発売中／

めぞん一刻（高橋留美子）……全15巻
冒険してもいい頃（みやすのんき）……全11巻
傷追い人（小池一夫・池上遼一）……全11巻
Cryingフリーマン（小池一夫・池上遼一）……全 9 巻
赤い鳩〈アビル〉（小池一夫・池上遼一）……全 6 巻
二匹のブル（瀬叩龍・岩重孝）……全10巻
わたしは真悟（楳図かずお）……全10巻
瑠璃色ゼネレーション（柳沢きみお）…全 7 巻
キスより簡単（石坂啓）……全 6 巻
夢みるトマト（石坂啓）……全 6 巻
アレルギー戦士（石坂啓）……全 1 巻
極めてかもしだ（山本直樹）……全 6 巻
はっぱ64（山本直樹）……全 3 巻
スローニン（吉田聡）……全 4 巻
ブルー・ジーン（くじらいいくこ）……全 3 巻
傳平㊙事情（六田登）……全 2 巻
1½いっかにぶんのいち（むつ利之）…全 2 巻
ガルルル（むつ利之）……全 2 巻
表萬家裏萬家（澤井健）……全 2 巻
あどりぶシネ倶楽部（細野不二彦）……全 1 巻
うにばーしてぃBOYS（細野不二彦）全 1 巻
座・スターダスト（国友やすゆき）…全 1 巻
美紅・舞子（西村しのぶ）……全 1 巻
胡桃（佐藤宏之）……全 1 巻

装丁／海野一雄　　カバー・フォト／菊地和男

美味しんぼ
23 真夏のソバ
作・雁屋 哲
画・花咲アキラ

小学館
BC2033

BIG COMICS

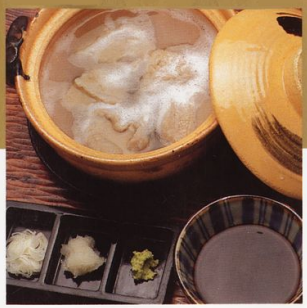
美味しんぼ 23

真夏のソバ

作・雁屋 哲　画・花咲アキラ

◆

小学館
BC2033



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雁屋　哲
花咲アキラ 著作集

■ ビッグコミックス

美味しんぼ……1～23集発売中

■スピリッツコミックス好評発売中／■

美味しんぼ（雁屋哲・花咲アキラ）…1～23集
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F〈エフ〉（六田登）……1～16集
妻をめとらば（柳沢きみお）……1～12集
YAWARA！（浦沢直樹）……1～12集
マドンナ（くじらいいくこ）……1～11集
神の左手悪魔の右手（楳図かずお）…1～6集
男樹（本宮ひろ志）……1～6集
ツルモク独身寮（窪之内英策）……1～6集
出直しといで！（一色まこと）……1～4集
ジパング少年（いわしげ孝）……1～4集
以蔵のキモチ（佐藤宏之）……1～2集
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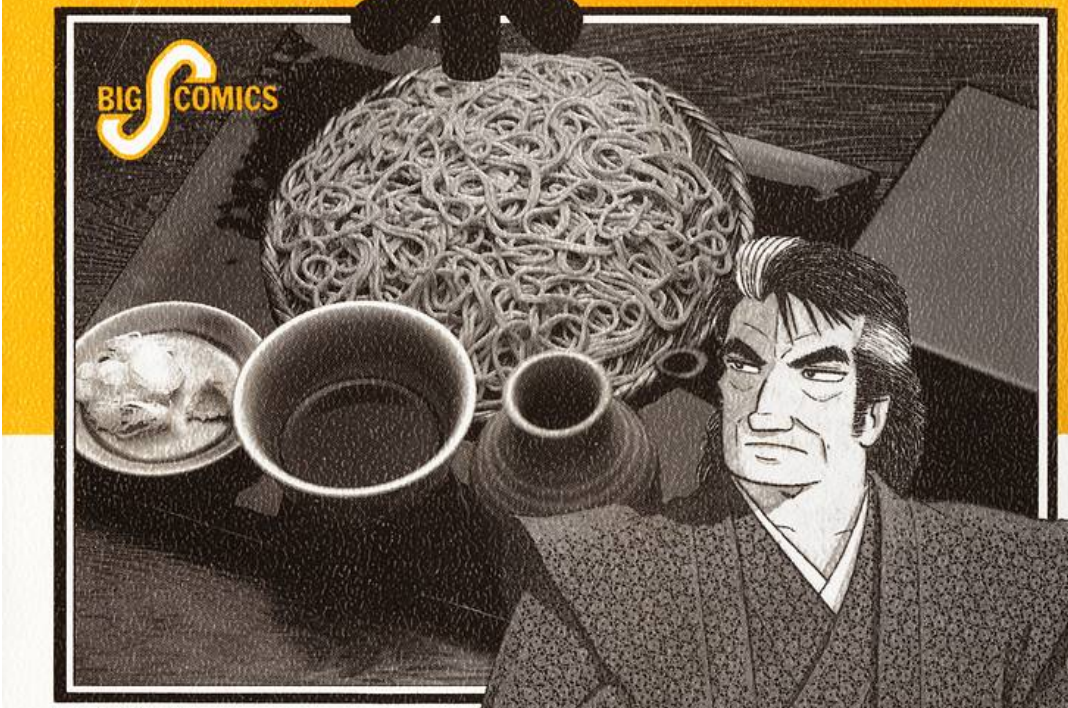
美味(おい)しんぼ



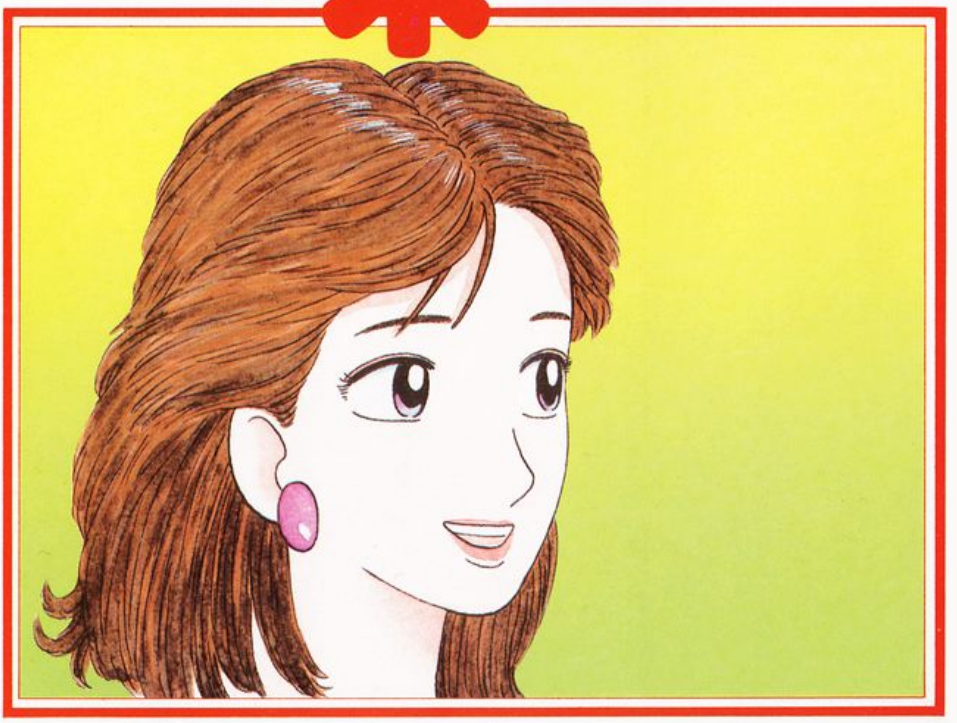
23 真夏のソバ

作・雁屋 哲
画・花咲アキラ

23 真夏のソバ

■並木「籔蕎麦」の、タスマニアのそば粉を使用して打ったそば。裏表紙の写真は「そばがき」特別製で品書きにはない。
調理／並木「籔蕎麦」ＴＥＬ 03-841-1340

美味(おい)しんぼ



美味(おい)しんぼ

23 真夏のソバ

第1話　ジャンボ茶碗蒸し……3
第2話　甘味と辛味……25
第3話　梅干しの雨……47
第4話　カツオのたたき……69
第5話　パワー・ミート……91
第6話　ばあちゃんの賭け…113
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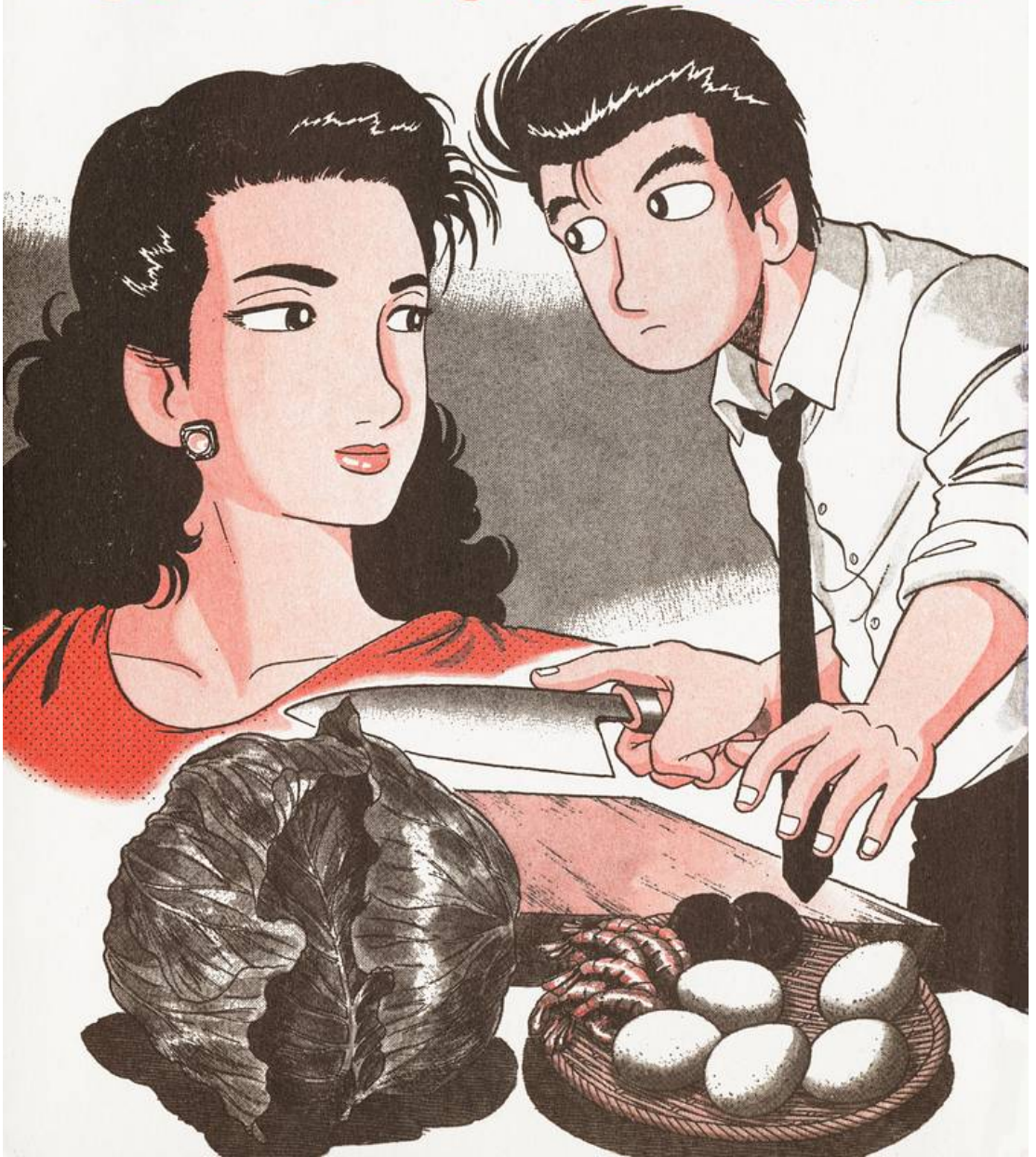
第8話　二人のスター……157
第9話　もやしっ子……179
第10話　白身の旨さ……201

第1話

ジャンボ茶碗蒸し



NEC
WHAT IS THIS! ARE YOU TELLING ME TO WALK ON THE ROAD?

DAMN. SHE'S STRONG.

HERE, TAKE THIS!
ズリ

2

ARE YOU OKAY?
OH MY.

KYAA!

ガキ

DELICIOUS DISHES 23

WHY... WHY IS THIS HAPPENING TO ME...

ヒィ
ハァ
ヒィ

COFFEE
ルノアール

N-NO, BUT...
YOUR SHOES ARE BOTH FINE, RIGHT? OR ARE YOU TELLING ME TO HOP AWAY ON ONE FOOT?

ME?!
THEN GO TO THAT HEEL REPAIR SHOP AND GET THEM FIXED.

4

GRABBING SOMEONE AND ORDERING THEM AROUND LIKE IT'S NORMAL!
WHAT A BITCH...

HURRY UP AND GO!

DELICIOUS DISHES 23

I WAS PLANNING TO GO SHOPPING BEFORE, BUT THERE'S NO TIME NOW, SO I THOUGHT I'D HAVE MARIKO KEEP ME COMPANY UNTIL KATAMORI ARRIVES.
SO, DID YOU CALL ME JUST FOR THAT?
ACTUALLY, I HAVE A MEETING WITH KATAMORI.
ACCORDING TO MY SISTER...
YO... SOMETHING LIKE YAMA, RIGHT?
JUST IN TIME, MARIKO. I HEARD YOU HAVE SOMEONE YOU LIKE.
WHAT KIND OF MAN IS HE? TELL ME.
AUNT TERUKO, I HAVE SOMETHING TO DO, SO I'LL TAKE MY LEAVE NOW!
UH... WELL... THAT IS...
6
IT'S YAMAOKA.
OH... YOUR NAME IS, IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY...
I ALSO...

DELICIOUS DISHES 23

I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN, GOODBYE!
WAIT, PLEASE!
THAT'S WHY YOU CAN'T WRITE A DECENT NOVEL, BEING SO DENSE!
AH, HOW PATHETIC!
WELL. I CAN'T DENY. SHE SURE IS SOMETHING.
BUT BECAUSE MY AUNT IS LIKE THAT, THINGS AREN'T GOING VERY WELL...
AUNT TERUKO AND MR. KATAMORI HAVE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR A LONG TIME...
AH, PLEASE DON'T SAY THAT!
I'LL TELL MY AUNT IF YOU KEEP SAYING SUCH MEAN THINGS!
SO, THAT MEANS YOU MUST BE QUITE A...
HOLD ON, YOU ALSO SHARE BLOOD WITH THAT AUNT, DON'T YOU?

DELICIOUS DISHES 23

9

YOU WANT TO MARRY MARIKO, RIGHT?
COUGH

HUH?
I LIKE YOU, SO JUST LEAVE EVERYTHING TO ME.

.....

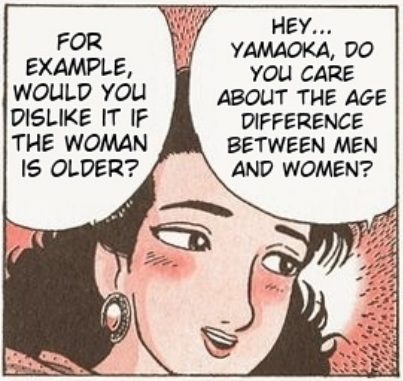
YOU'RE SO SHY ABOUT IT, IT'S CUTE.
キャ!!!
WELL, YOU'RE SO INNOCENT.

N-N-N...

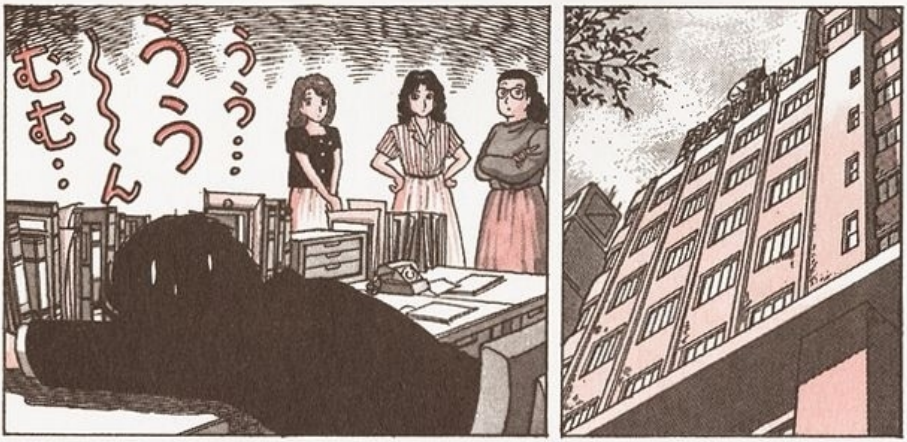
10

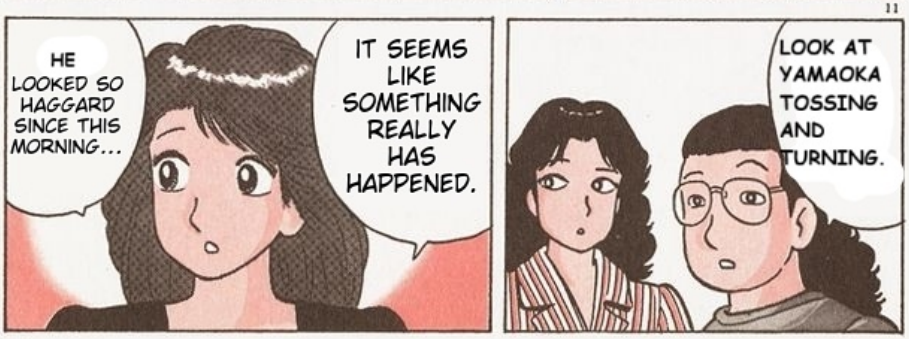
HOW LOVELY...

I-I MEAN, THAT'S NOT...


FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD YOU DISLIKE IT IF THE WOMAN IS OLDER?
HEY... YAMAOKA, DO YOU CARE ABOUT THE AGE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN?

DELICIOUS DISHES 23

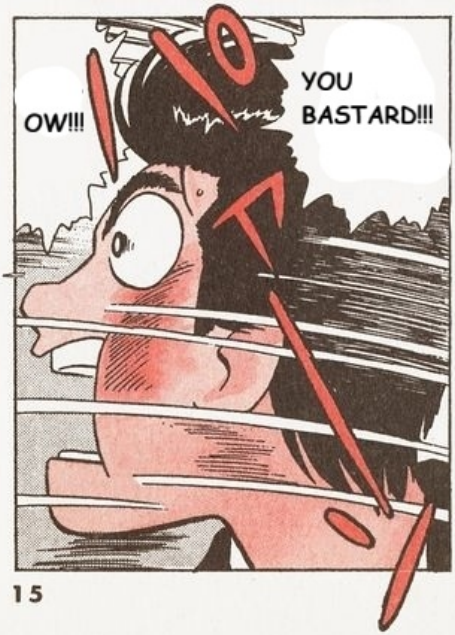




IT'S FINE.
UM... WHO ARE YOU...?
AHA, SO THIS IS THE CULTURE DEPARTMENT.
YAMAOKA-SAN.
UNTIL LATE LAST NIGHT, YOU SAY...
LAST NIGHT WAS FUN.
AAAAAAAAH!!!
12
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I'LL BE WAITING!
I CAN'T COME. I'M BUSY...
TOMORROW NIGHT AT SEVEN, COME TO THIS SHOP. I'LL BE WAITING.

DELICIOUS DISHES 23

13



PLEASE DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.
IF THIS CONTINUES, I'LL END UP RUINING MYSELF.

岡星

TERUKO AND I HAVE BEEN DATING FOR YEARS, BUT THINGS HAVE NEVER GONE SMOOTHLY.
YES...

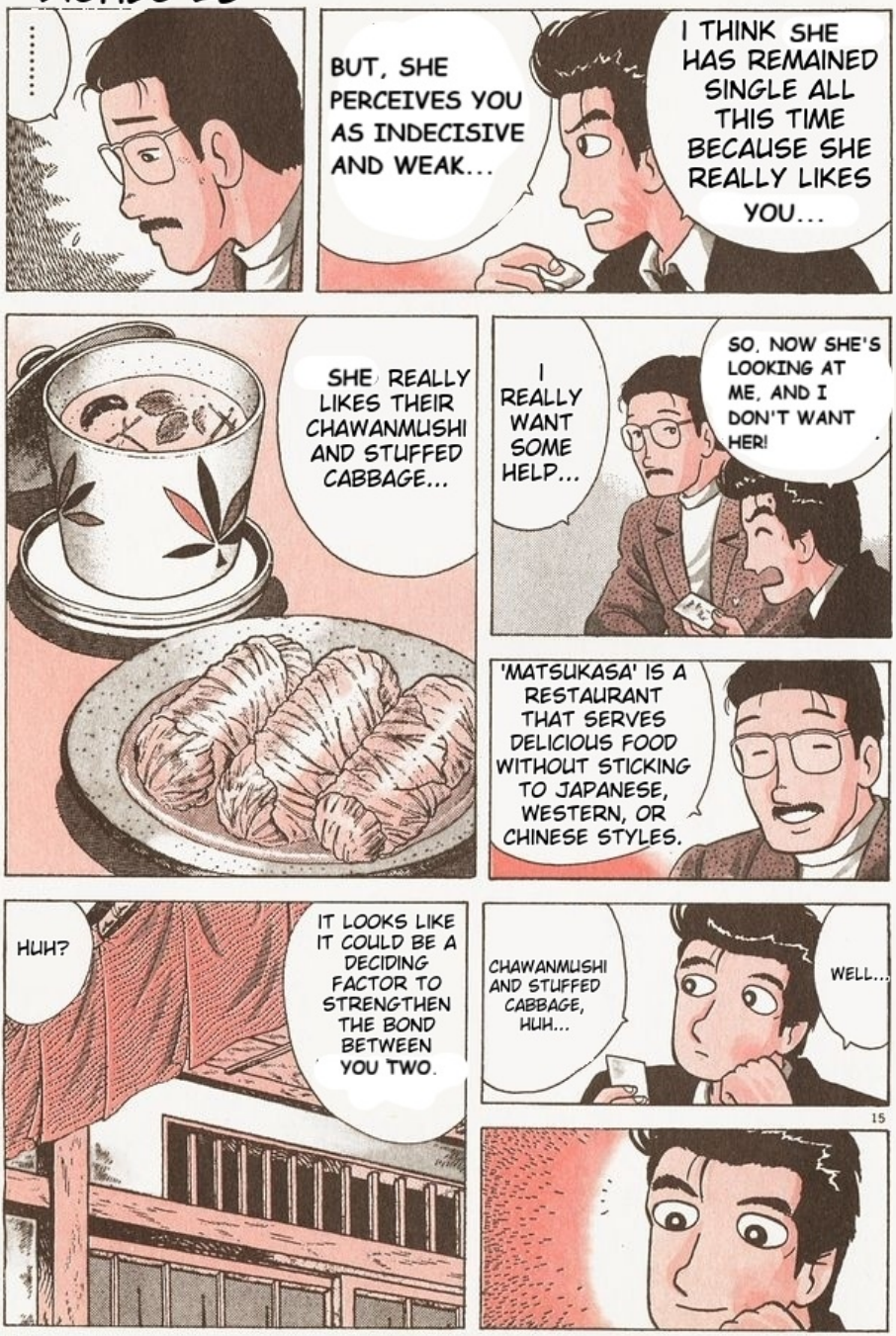
YOU LIKE TERUKO-SAN, DON'T YOU?

YESTERDAY, WHEN YOU DROPPED WORK TO COME JOIN US, SHE JUST CAUSED A SCENE.

YOU SHOULD'VE BEEN ANGRY...
I KNOW, BUT... I...

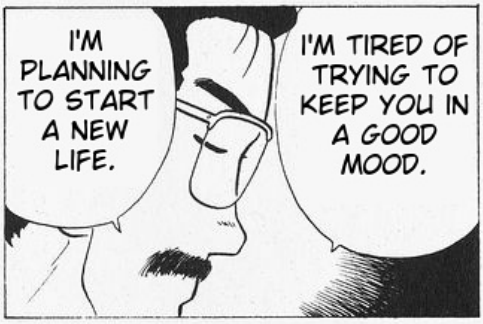
WITH HER STRONG PERSONALITY AND EVERYONE AROUND HER PAMPERING HER, IT'S ONLY MADE HER EVEN MORE STUBBORN.
TERUKO-SAN WAS BORN INTO WEALTH AND IS BEAUTIFUL.
SHE BELIEVES THAT EVERYONE AROUND HER WILL ACT EXACTLY AS SHE WANTS.

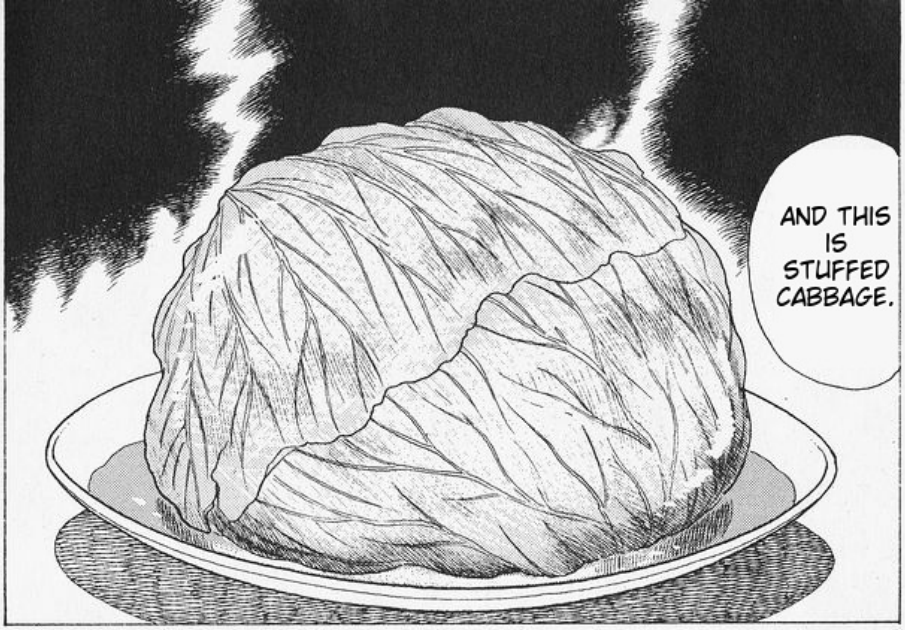
DELICIOUS DISHES 23



HEHEHE... YAMAOKA-SAN, YOU'RE QUIET TODAY.
ALL THE GUYS I'VE DATED ARE LIKE THAT... THEY'RE ALL WEAKER THAN ME...
NO WAY... DON'T SAY THE SAME THING AS THE OTHER GUYS.
WELL, I JUST FEEL KIND OF OVERWHELMED WHEN I'M IN FRONT OF YOU, TERUKO-SAN...
16
I THOUGHT YOU WERE A CHALLENGE...
WELL, I'M NOT REALLY...

DELICIOUS DISHES 23




AND THIS IS STUFFED CABBAGE.

I TIED IT UP AND SIMMERED IT IN A BIG POT WITH SOUP.
AND THEN, I LAYER THE SAUTÉED GROUND MEAT AND ONIONS INSIDE THE CABBAGE, PLACING LEAVES ON TOP AND STACKING THEM IN MANY LAYERS UNTIL IT'S FULL,

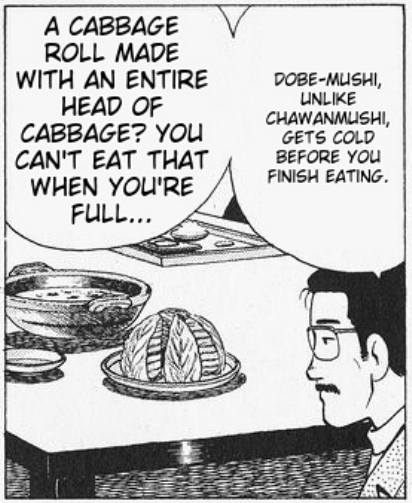
MY FAVOR-ITES!

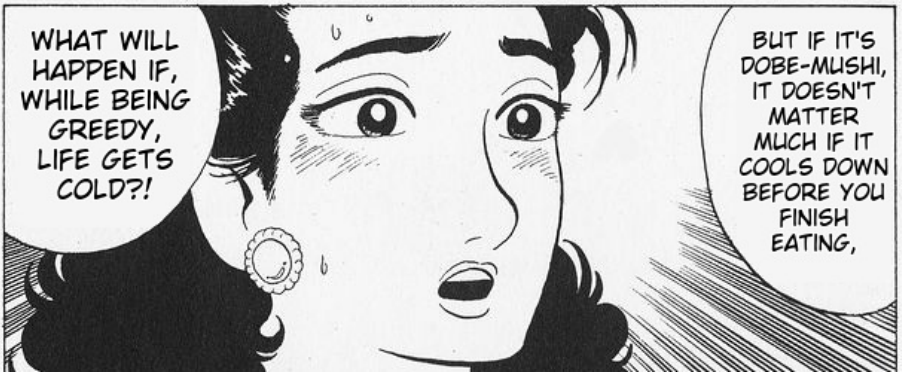
I LEAVE ONLY THE OUTER LEAVES OF THE CABBAGE AND REMOVE THE INNER LEAVES.

INDEED, THIS IS CERTAINLY RIDICULOUS...
RIDICULOUS, YOU SAY?

YOU REALLY MADE SOMETHING SO RIDICULOUS...
WHAT A THING... I'M SURPRISED...

DELICIOUS DISHES 23



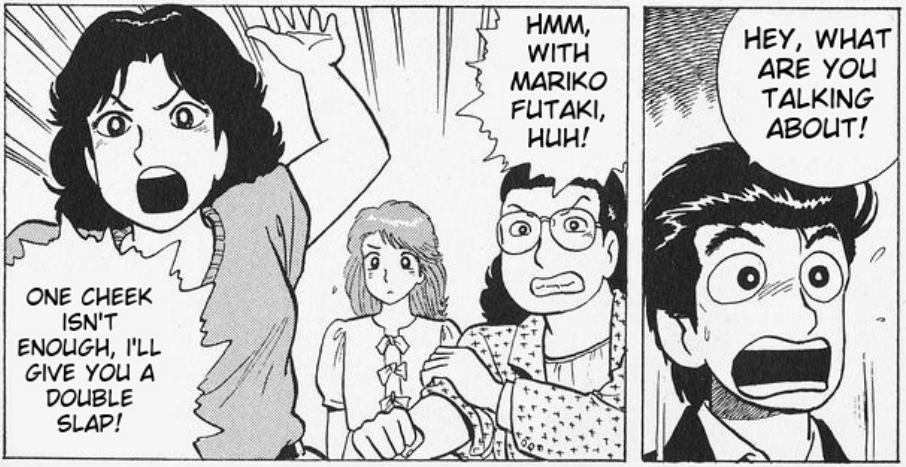


PLEASE ENJOY THE DONABE STEAMED DISH AND JUMBO ROLL CABBAGE TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT.
WELL THEN, GOODBYE, TERUKO.
.....
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO WOULD EAT SUCH A LUKEWARM DISH...
I'M LIKE A LUKEWARM DONABE STEAMED DISH.
WAIT, KATAMORI-SAN...
20
I WONDER WHAT THAT IDIOT YAMAOKA CALLED US OUT HERE FOR?
YOU CAN'T JUST DISTRACT ME WITH FOOD, IT WON'T WORK.

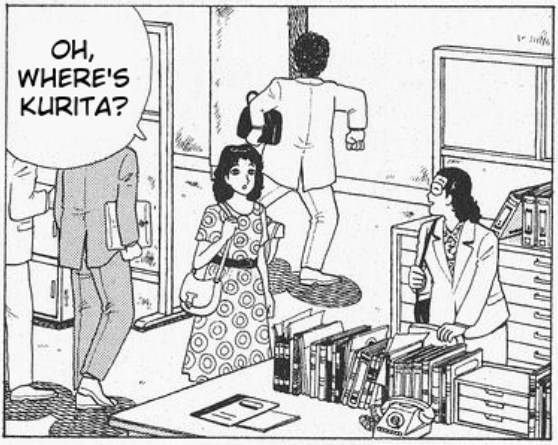
GEEZ! YOU CALLED ME TO SHOW OFF WITH THAT WOMAN, DIDN'T YOU!
THANK YOU SO MUCH, YAMAOKA-SAN.
ニヤ
NO, I WANTED TO SHOW YOU THAT I COULD PLAY MATCHMAKER FOR THOSE TWO LOVEBIRDS!
21
SHE EVEN STROKED MY CHEEK!
WELL, THAT'S JUST LOVELY.

OH MY.
HELLO, EVERYONE!
WHOA!
YAMAOKA-SAN.
WELL THEN, BYE-BYE.
IN EXCHANGE, I'LL HELP YOU SO YOU CAN MARRY MY NEICE.
WAIT...
SO GIVE UP ON ME.
I'VE DECIDED TO MARRY KATAMORI.

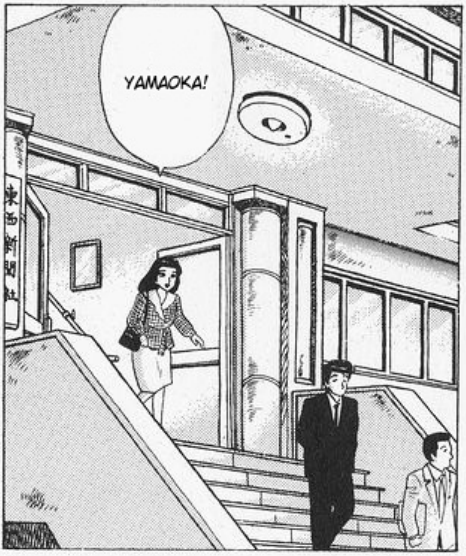
22


HMM, WITH MARIKO FUTAKI, HUH!
ONE CHEEK ISN'T ENOUGH, I'LL GIVE YOU A DOUBLE SLAP!
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!

第2話
甘味と辛味


OH, WHERE'S KURITA?

WELL THEN, MY LOVELY SUBORDINATES, I'M HEADING HOME!
HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND!


YAMAOKA!

SHE SHOULD BE BACK BY NOW...
SHE WENT TO PICK UP THE MANUSCRIPT.

ふぁ～～～っ

2

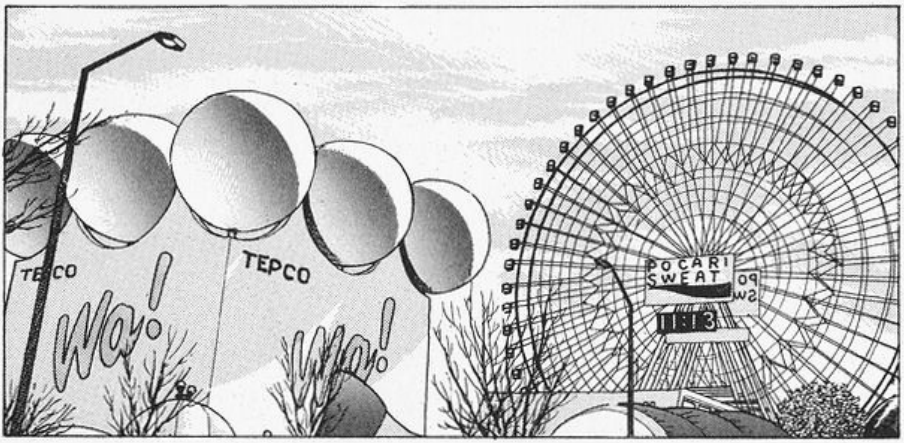
HUH, OH, WHAT...

THANK YOU FOR TAKING CARE OF AUNT TERUKO THE OTHER DAY.
YES.

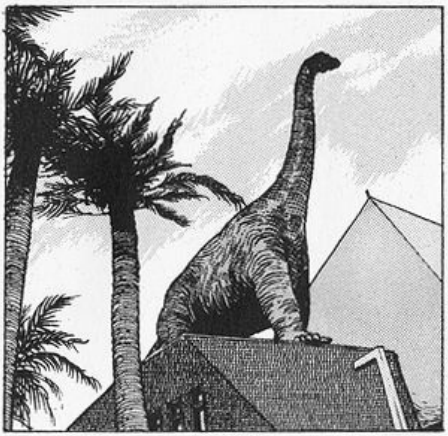
AUNT TERUKO BELIEVES IN HER TAROT CARDS, AND IF HER PREDICTION FAILS, IT'S A BIG DEAL!
MAYBE IT IS, BUT, THERE'S A PROBLEM.
WHAT IS IT?
THE FORTUNE-TELLING SAYS THAT THIS WEEKEND, YAMAOKA-SAN IS GOING TO TAKE ME TO THE YOKOHAMA EXPO.
AUNT TERUKO IS REALLY INTERESTING,
THAT'S SUCH NONSENSE FROM A FORTUNE-TELLING.
IT SAID I'D TAKE YOU TO THE YOKOHAMA EXPO?
YES!
ARE YOU FREE THIS WEEKEND?
SHE STARTED SAYING THAT THE MAN HAS AN EVIL SPIRIT THAT DISRUPTS AUNT TERUKO'S TELEPATHY,
I PREDICTED MY FATHER'S SUBORDINATE'S MARRIAGE LUCK BEFORE, AND WHEN THAT TURNED OUT WRONG,
AND FOR TWENTY-ONE DAYS, SHE WOULD ACCOMPANY HIM TO EXORCISE THE SPIRIT...
3
WELL, THERE'S NO ONE LEFT.
SORRY THAT I'M BACK SO LATE, EVERYONE! I...

HEY, KURITA-SAN.
I THOUGHT HE'D BE WAITING FOR ME AFTER ALL...
OH, CHIKIJO-SAN?
DON'T YOU WANT TO GO TO THE YOKOHAMA EXPO?
KURITA-SAN, ARE YOU FREE THIS WEEKEND?
OH, YOU WAITED FOR ME...
I HEARD THAT YOU WOULD BE LATE FOR WORK WHEN I ARRIVED EARLIER, SO I WAS WAITING.
4
YAY!
SURE, LET'S GO. I'VE WANTED TO GO TO THE YOKOHAMA EXPO.
YOU WANT US TO GO TOGETHER?
YEAH, LET'S GO. IT SEEMS PRETTY INTERESTING.
THAT INSENSITIVE GUY...

DELICIOUS!


TEPCO
TEPCO
Wa!
Wa!
POCARI SWEAT
11:13

MITSUBISHI
THERE'S A HUGE CROWD.



5

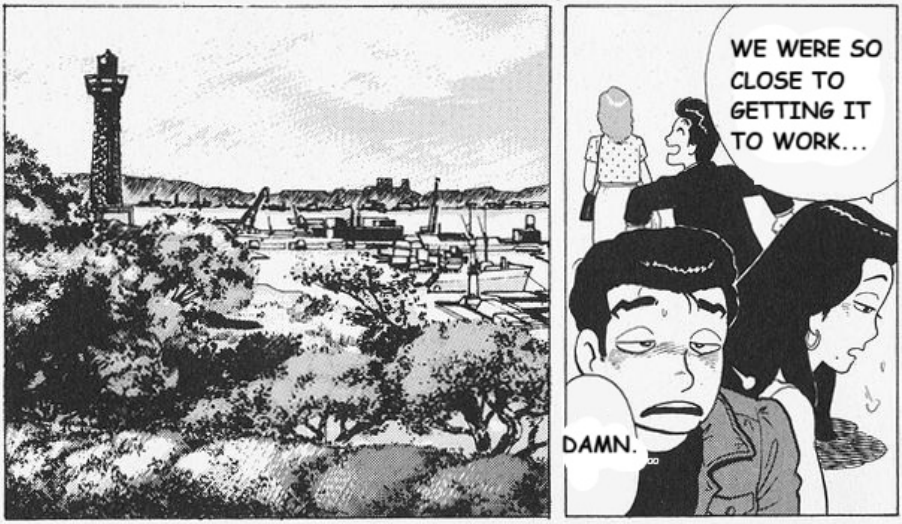
BUT IT'S REALLY TOUGH TO WALK AROUND LIKE THIS.
ハァ

I MIGHT GET LOST.
MUAH

アッ
不思議ドーム
エッ
OH, I SEE...
THIS LOOKS MORE INTERESTING!
YEAH...
LET'S GO OVER THERE.
6
IT'S LUCKY TO MEET LIKE THIS IN SUCH A CROWD.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU GUYS WERE HERE.
HEY, KURITA, CHIKIJO!
HUH?!
YAMAOKA!

DELICIOUS!

YAMAOKA-SAN AND FUTAKI-SAN, DON'T YOU HAVE ANY PLANS?
YES, THAT'S RIGHT, WE...
え
LET'S GO OUT TO EAT TOGETHER; I'M TIRED OF GOING AROUND ALREADY.
THAT'S TRUE...
ALRIGHT, LET'S ALL GO OUT TO EAT TOGETHER.
THAT'S RIGHT, WE...
ガク
NO, WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING.
BUT CHIKIJO-SAN AND KURITA-SAN MIGHT HAVE PLANS...
7


WE WERE SO CLOSE TO GETTING IT TO WORK...
DAMN.

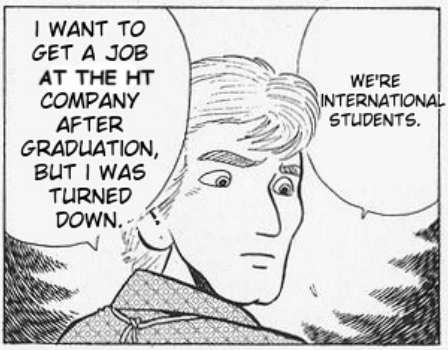
RESTAURANT
金港館

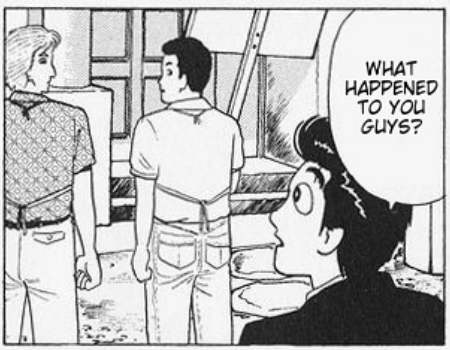
WOW, THERE'S A RESTAURANT IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
YEAH, THEY CONVERTED A PRIVATE RESIDENCE INTO A RESTAURANT. IT'S BEEN GETTING PRETTY GOOD REVIEWS LATELY.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR FOREIGNERS, HUH?
外国人に
外国人に
HT社は
外国人学生を

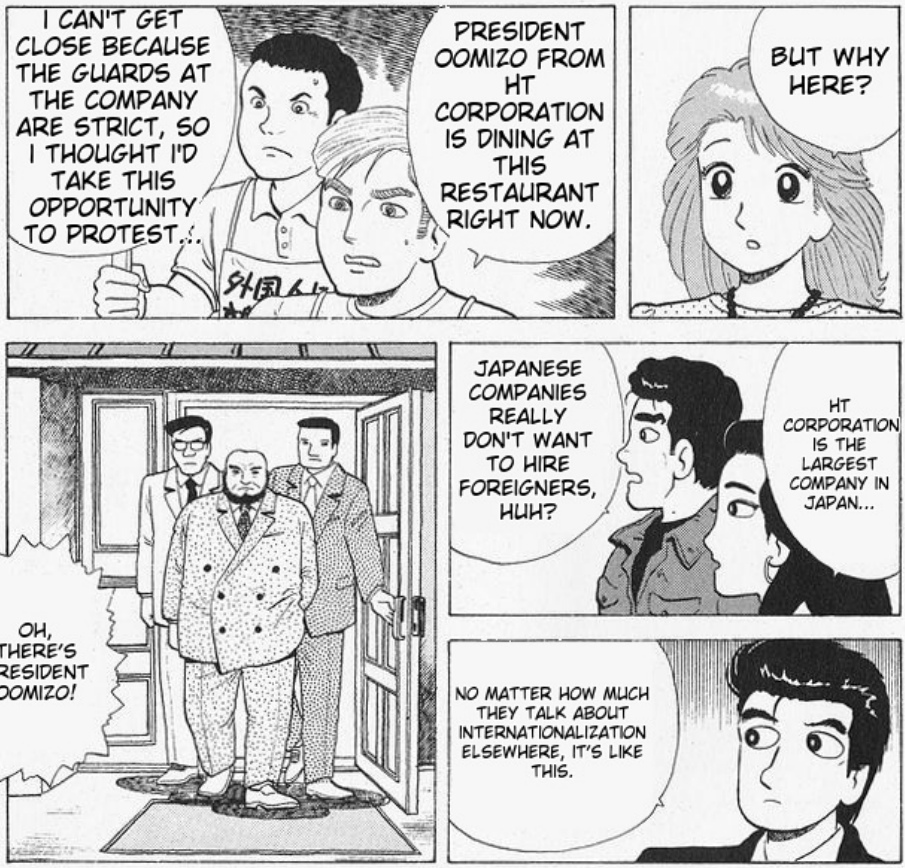
OH, REALLY?

8


I WANT TO GET A JOB AT THE HT COMPANY AFTER GRADUATION, BUT I WAS TURNED DOWN.
WE'RE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS.


WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU GUYS?

DELICIOUS!


I CAN'T GET CLOSE BECAUSE THE GUARDS AT THE COMPANY ARE STRICT, SO I THOUGHT I'D TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PROTEST...
PRESIDENT OOMIZO FROM HT CORPORATION IS DINING AT THIS RESTAURANT RIGHT NOW.
BUT WHY HERE?
OH, THERE'S PRESIDENT OOMIZO!
JAPANESE COMPANIES REALLY DON'T WANT TO HIRE FOREIGNERS, HUH?
HT CORPORATION IS THE LARGEST COMPANY IN JAPAN...
NO MATTER HOW MUCH THEY TALK ABOUT INTERNATIONALIZATION ELSEWHERE, IT'S LIKE THIS.
PLEASE DON'T DISCRIMINATE JUST BECAUSE I'M A FOREIGNER!
PRESIDENT, PLEASE HIRE US!

PLEASE, LISTEN TO OUR STORY...
WAIT!
GET OUT OF THE WAY!
PLEASE LISTEN TO US!
WHAT?!
HEY, YOU ASSHOLE! LISTEN TO THEM!
10
ISN'T THAT RIGHT? THESE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE DESPERATELY TRYING TO MAKE THEIR VOICES HEARD, YET YOU WON'T EVEN LISTEN TO THEM.
STUBBORNLY REFUSING TO LISTEN TO ANYONE MAKES YOU AN ASS!
OH NO... ANOTHER CONFLICT?!
WHAT DID YOU CALL ME?!

DELICIOUS!

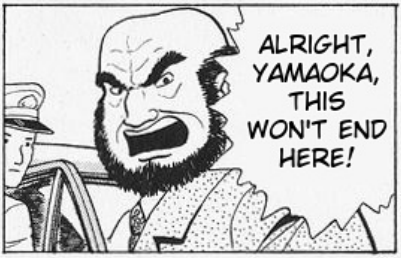
YOU'RE EXPORTING PRODUCTS OVERSEAS AND MAKING A PROFIT, RIGHT? YET, YOU CAN'T HIRE FOREIGNERS? THAT WON'T WORK IN THE WORLD OF TOMORROW.
外国人に就職差別をするな!!
HT社外国人帰え!!
WHY NOT GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO PROVE THEMSELVES INSTEAD OF TURNING THEM AWAY JUST BECAUSE THEY'RE FOREIGNERS?

YAMAOKA SHIROU, A REPORTER FOR THE TOZAI NEWSPAPER!

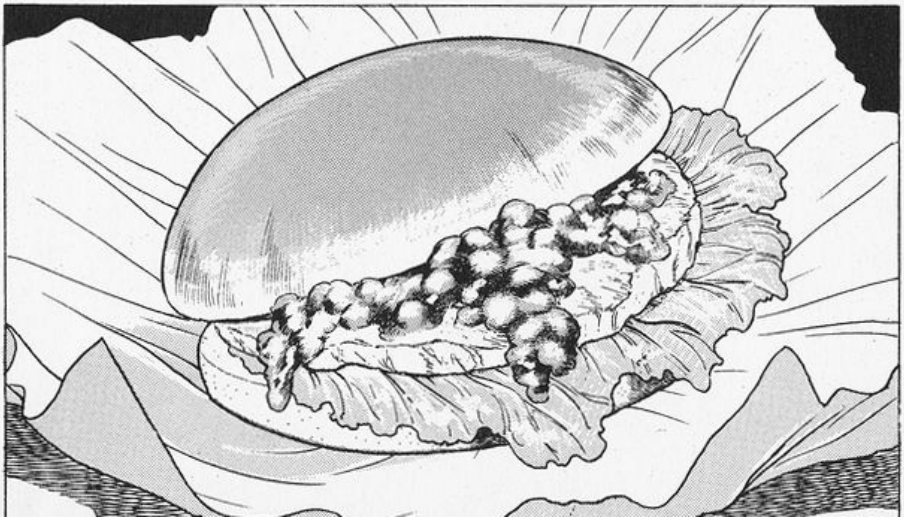
WHO ARE YOU? STATE YOUR NAME!!
SHUT UP!!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO HONEST ABOUT EVERYTHING...
THIS IS BAD, YAMAOKA-SAN...

LET'S JUST EAT ALREADY.
HMPH, ACTING ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY.

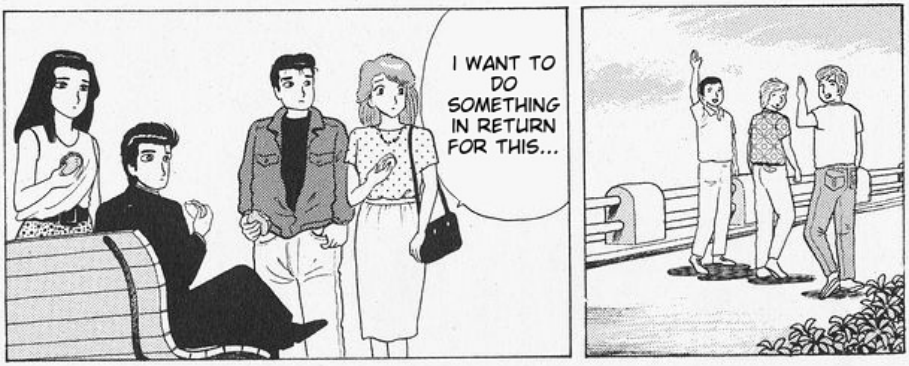

ALRIGHT, YAMAOKA, THIS WON'T END HERE!

THAT'S SO MEAN!!
WHAT?!
THOSE WHO CAUSE TROUBLE DO NOT ALIGN WITH OUR STORE'S POLICY...
WE CANNOT SERVE YOU, CUSTOMER.
HUH? IT'S FINE, YOU DON'T HAVE TO.
PLEASE EAT THIS.
I'M SORRY YOU MISSED YOUR MEAL BECAUSE OF US...
WE WERE REALLY HAPPY FOR YOUR SUPPORT, AND AS A THANK YOU...
I REALLY WANT YOU TO EAT IT.

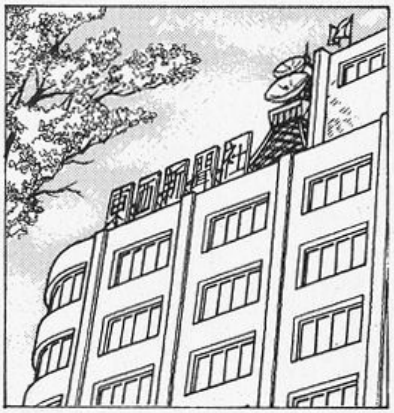


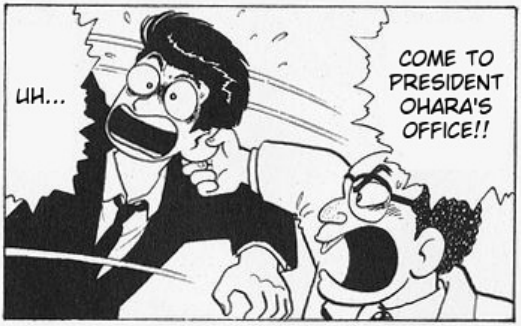
DELICIOUS!

13

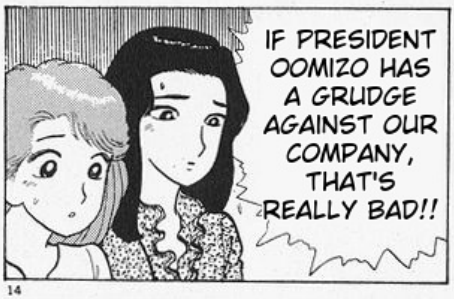


HEY, YAMAOKA!
HUH?




UH...
COME TO PRESIDENT OHARA'S OFFICE!!

CAUSING TROUBLE AGAIN!!

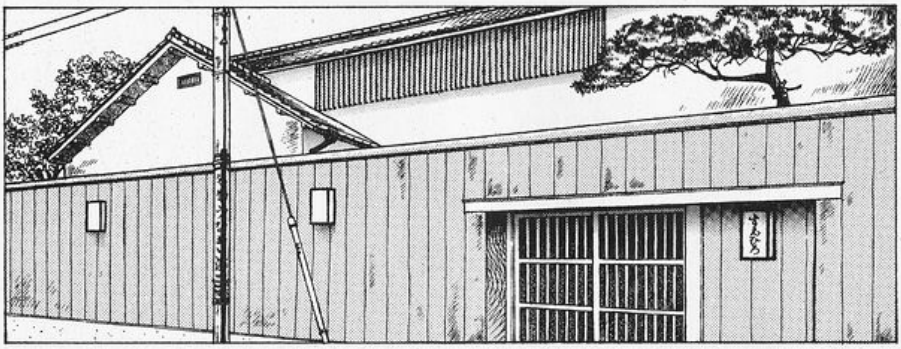

IF PRESIDENT OOMIZO HAS A GRUDGE AGAINST OUR COMPANY, THAT'S REALLY BAD!!

14

YAMAOKA, GO HANG YOURSELF IN FRONT OF PRESIDENT OOMIZO!!

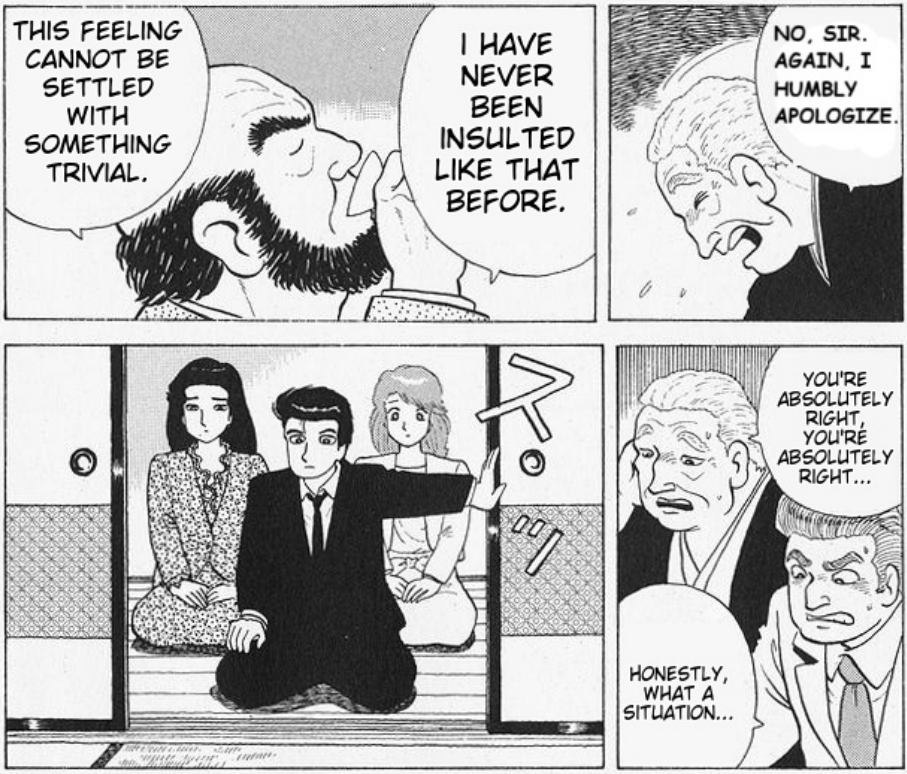
PRESIDENT OOMIZO IS A BIG SHOT IN THE BUSINESS WORLD!!

I'LL STRANGLE YOU!
ISN'T IT THE SAME THING?!
NO, HANGING IS DISGRACEFUL.
IF YOU SAY HANGING IS DISGRACEFUL, THEN COME OVER HERE!
ALRIGHT,



15

MR. OHARA, HAVE YOU EVER BEEN CALLED AN ASS OR COMPARED TO A BEAST?
I SINCERELY APOLOGIZE FOR WHAT HE'S DONE!
I'M TRULY SORRY ABOUT THIS TIME...


THIS FEELING CANNOT BE SETTLED WITH SOMETHING TRIVIAL.
I HAVE NEVER BEEN INSULTED LIKE THAT BEFORE.
NO, SIR. AGAIN, I HUMBLY APOLOGIZE.
YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT, YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT...
HONESTLY, WHAT A SITUATION...

16

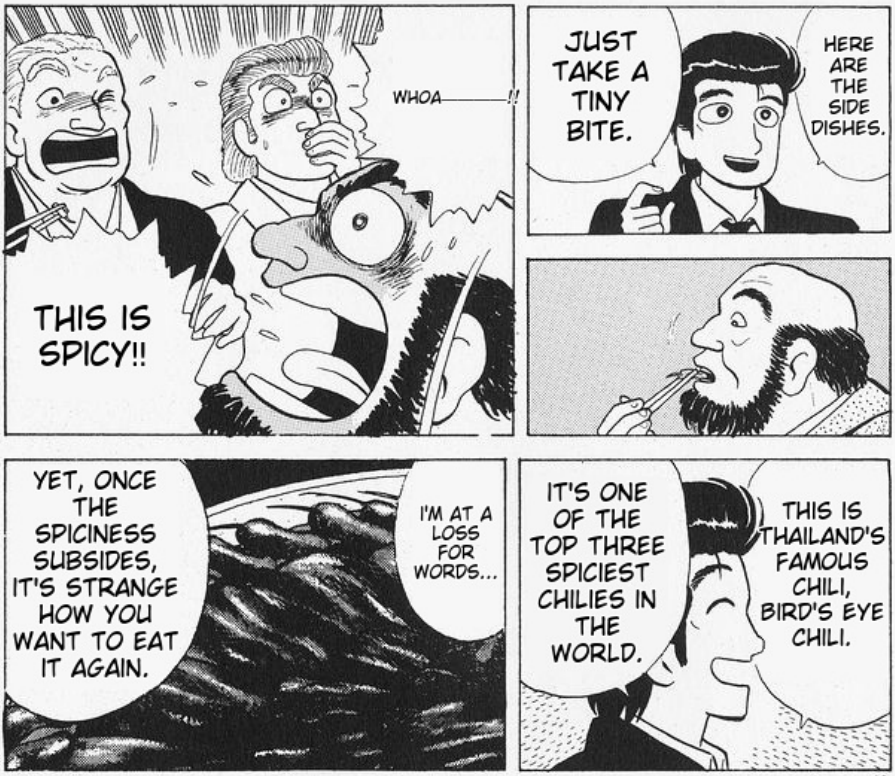
WELL... IT MIGHT INDEED SEEM LIKE MY WORDS OF APOLOGY LACK SINCERITY...
DO YOU THINK JUST SAYING 'I'M SORRY' IS ENOUGH?!
YOU?!
I APOLOGIZE FOR THE GREAT RUDENESS THE OTHER DAY.

DELICIOUS!

WHAT, WITH FOOD?
I WANT TO APOLOGIZE WITH FOOD.
FIRST, PLEASE GIVE IT A TRY.
WHAT IS THIS?

WHA-
WHAT?!
EH
HEH?
THIS IS
THINLY
SLICED
CHINESE
HAM
STEWED
WITH
HONEY.
IT'S ONE
OF THE
GEMS
OF
CHINESE
CUISINE.
WHAT
IS
THIS?
THIS IS A
STRANGE
TASTE,
SALTY
MEAT WITH
A SWEET
SAUCE...
18
WHAT
IS
THIS?
I'M TAKEN
BY
SURPRISE.
I'M
AMAZED,
HAM
WITH
HONEY...
THIS IS AN
EXTRAORDINARY
DELICIOUSNESS...
HMM... BUT
TRULY,
WHEN YOU
SAVOR IT,
IT'S REALLY
DELICIOUS...

DELICIOUS!

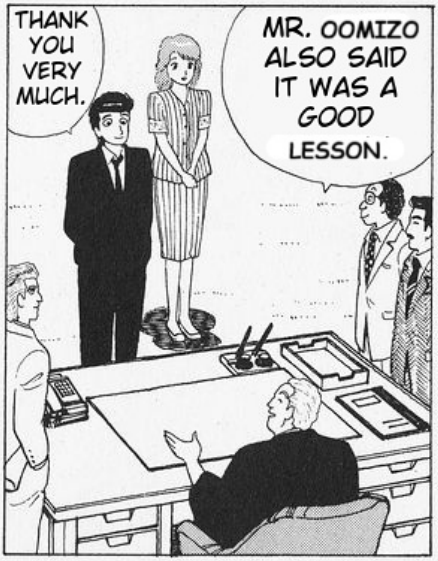


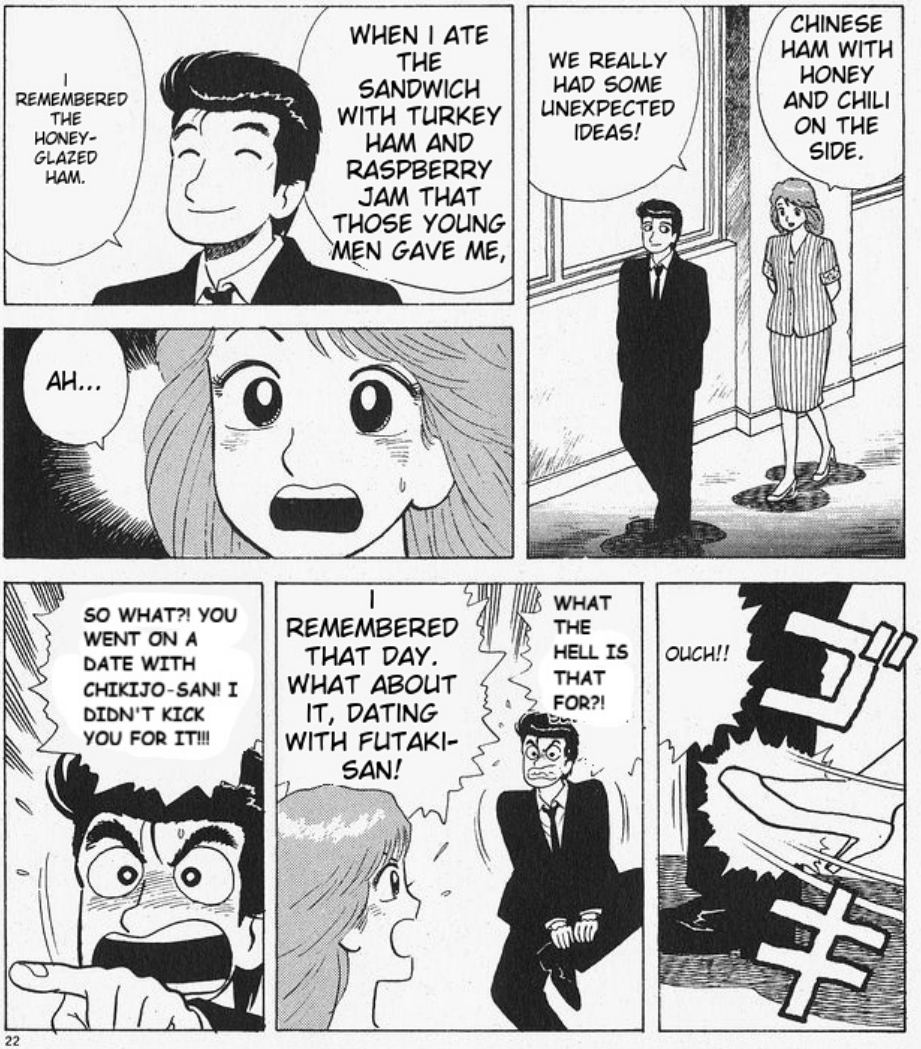
19

IN A GROUP COMPOSED SOLELY OF JAPANESE PEOPLE, ONLY JAPANESE IDEAS CAN EMERGE...
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SAY?
N-NO...
HIRING FOREIGNERS SEEMS TO BENEFIT JAPANESE PEOPLE MORE THAN IT BENEFITS THEM.
THAT WOULD PUT US AT A DISADVANTAGE IN COMPETING ON A GLOBAL SCALE.
THIS DISH WAS SERVED WITH THE INTENTION OF TORMENTING ME WHILE PRETENDING TO APOLOGIZE...
UGH, I SEE THROUGH YOU...
20
I'VE GROWN TO LIKE THIS DISH SO MUCH, I'VE LOST!!
WA HA HA HA, OHARA-SAN, I'VE LOST!!
DID YOU FIND ME OUT?
H-HEY!
Y-YAMAOKA!

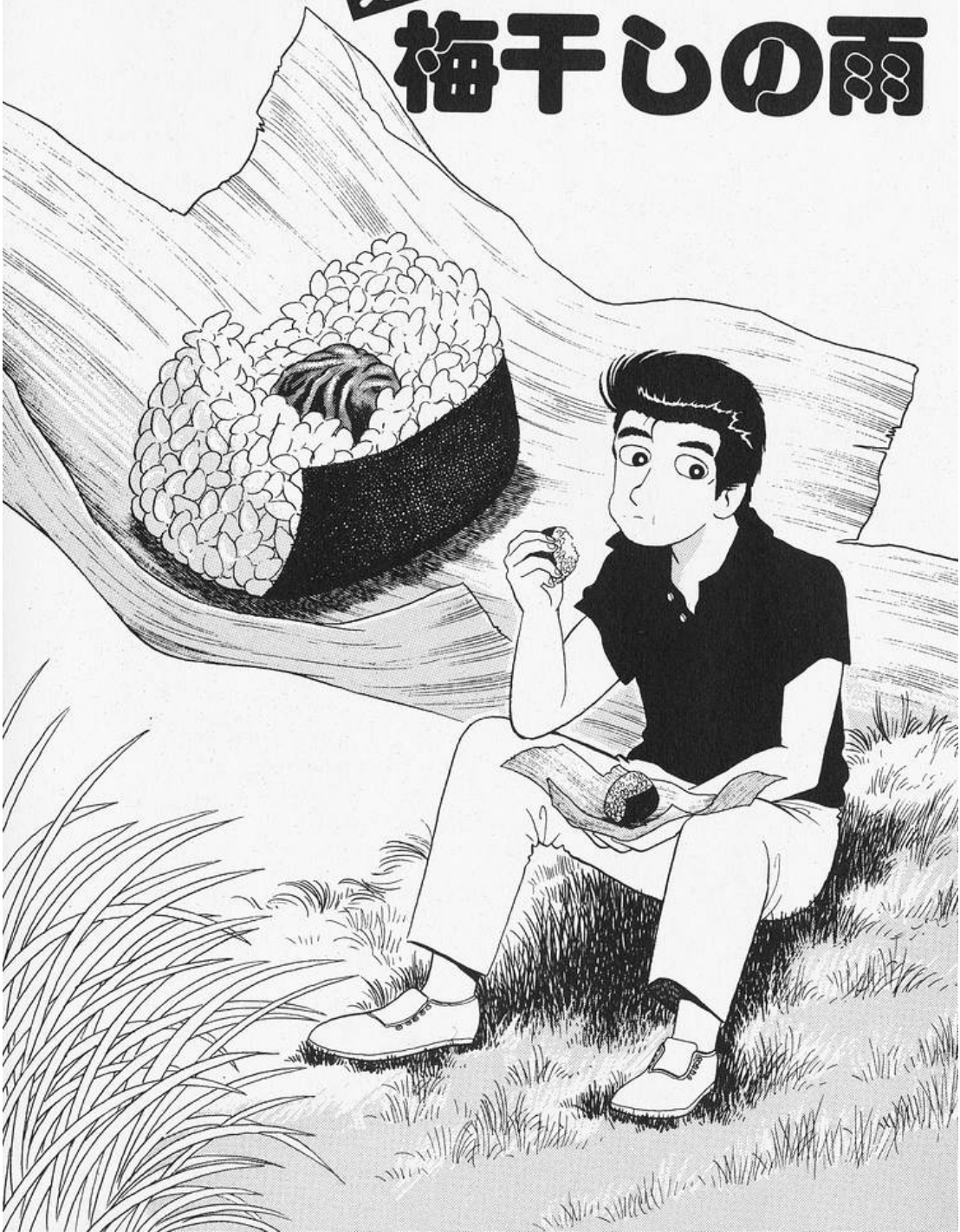
DELICIOUS!

21

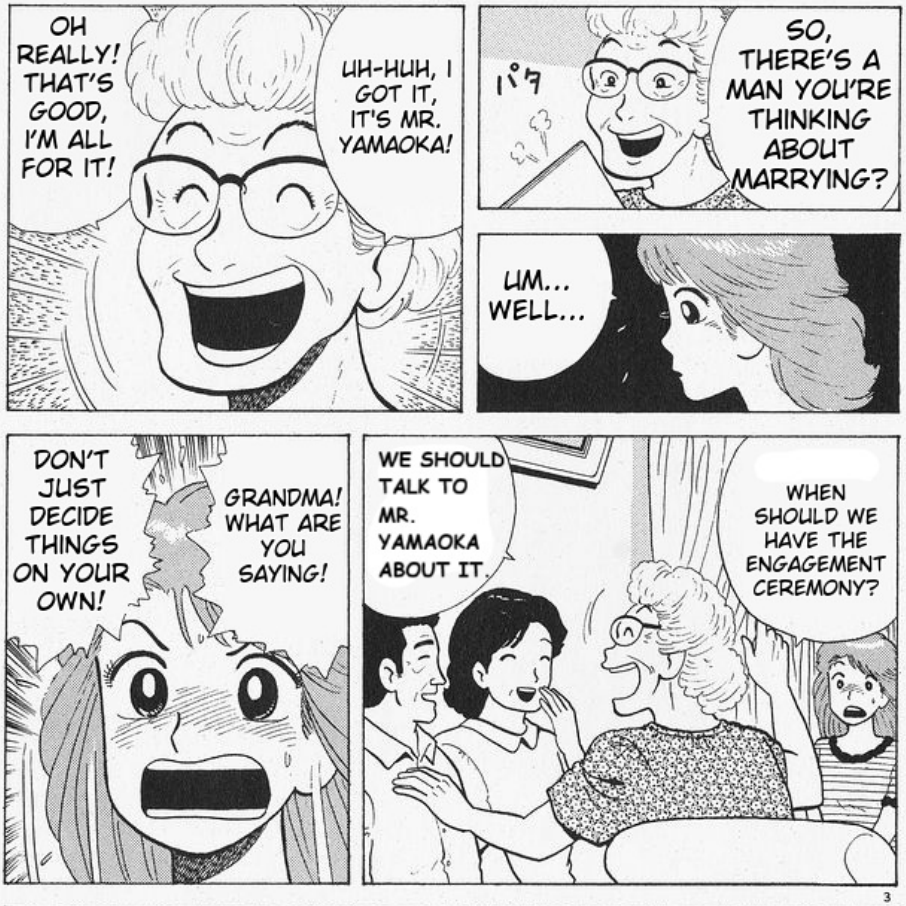



I REMEMBERED THE HONEY-GLAZED HAM.
WHEN I ATE THE SANDWICH WITH TURKEY HAM AND RASPBERRY JAM THAT THOSE YOUNG MEN GAVE ME,
AH...
WE REALLY HAD SOME UNEXPECTED IDEAS!
CHINESE HAM WITH HONEY AND CHILI ON THE SIDE.
SO WHAT?! YOU WENT ON A DATE WITH CHIKIJO-SAN! I DIDN'T KICK YOU FOR IT!!!
I REMEMBERED THAT DAY. WHAT ABOUT IT, DATING WITH FUTAKI-SAN!
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT FOR?!
OUCH!!
THAT'S THEM. SWEET, SPICY, AND SALTY!
TURKEY HAM WITH JAM, CHINESE HAM WITH HONEY...

第3話
梅干しの雨



I DON'T WANT THAT, ARRANGED MARRIAGES ARE OUT OF THE QUESTION!!
YUKO, WHY DON'T YOU MEET HIM AT LEAST ONCE?
栗
LEFT BEHIND?
WHAT WILL YOU DO IF YOU END UP BEING LEFT BEHIND BECAUSE YOU'RE DAYDREAMING!
STOP ACTING LIKE A SPOILED CHILD!!!
2
DON'T WORRY! I'M THINKING ABOUT IT PROPERLY.
INTERESTING.
AND BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, YOU'VE MISSED THE RIGHT AGE TO GET MARRIED, IS A COMMON STORY!
YOU WORK EVERY DAY AS A REPORTER, YOU GET A LITTLE TOO BUSY...

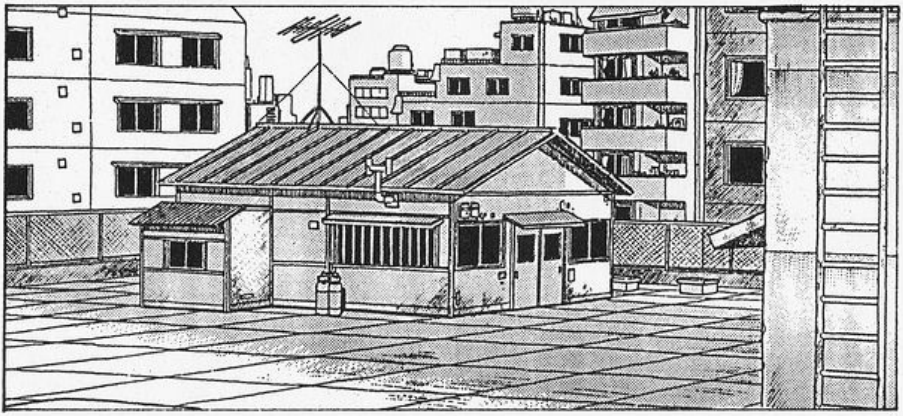

OH REALLY! THAT'S GOOD, I'M ALL FOR IT!
UH-HUH, I GOT IT, IT'S MR. YAMAOKA!
パク
SO, THERE'S A MAN YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT MARRYING?
UM... WELL...
DON'T JUST DECIDE THINGS ON YOUR OWN!
GRANDMA! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!
WE SHOULD TALK TO MR. YAMAOKA ABOUT IT.
WHEN SHOULD WE HAVE THE ENGAGEMENT CEREMONY?
3
IT'S MR. YAMAOKA.
HEY YUKO, IT'S A PHONE CALL.
ほほう
EH, MR. YAMAOKA?

TO YOUR HOUSE?
YOU WANT ME TO COME?
BUT..... BUT.....
WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED?
MR. YAMAOKA, PLEASE COME TO OUR PLACE ONCE IN A WHILE.
YES, YES, YUKO IS FREE, SO SHE'LL COME ANYWHERE RIGHT AWAY.
WELL, EXCUSE ME——.
わっ
HOW DELIGHTFUL——
OH MR. YAMAOKA, IT'S TAMAYO!
4
ほぉっほっほっ
THAT MAKES IT SOUND LIKE I'M.....!
OH GRANDMA, HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT!

HMM.

HONESTLY... WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT...? ASKING ME TO COME OVER...

WHAT HAPPENED, I WONDER...?
HE SOUNDED VERY DESPERATE.



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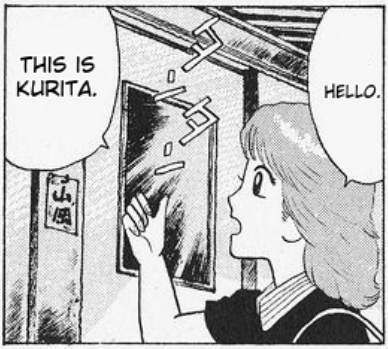
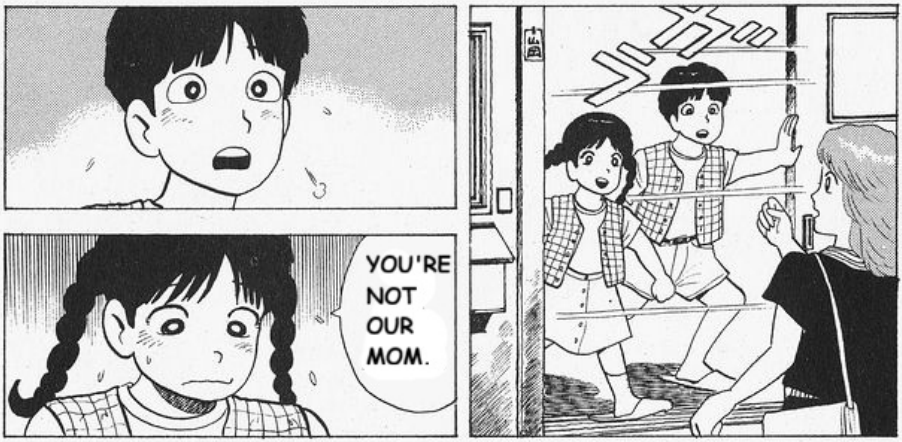
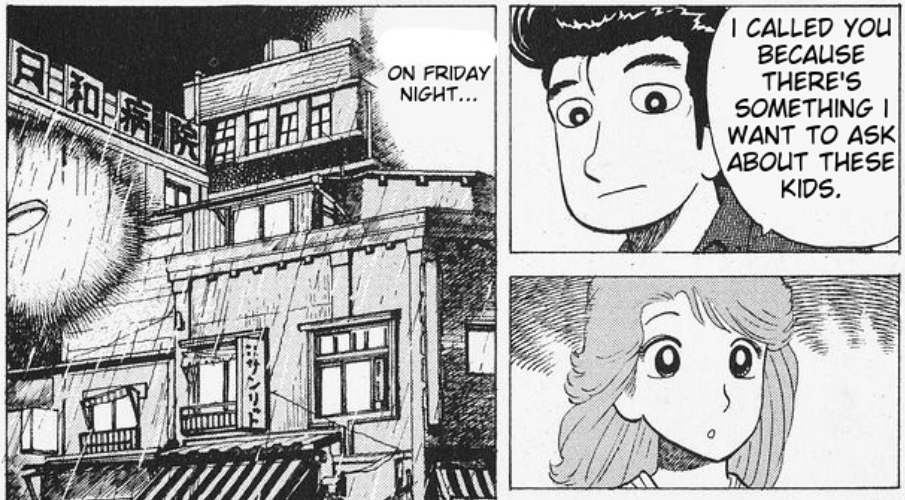

THIS IS KURITA.
HELLO.


YOU'RE NOT OUR MOM.

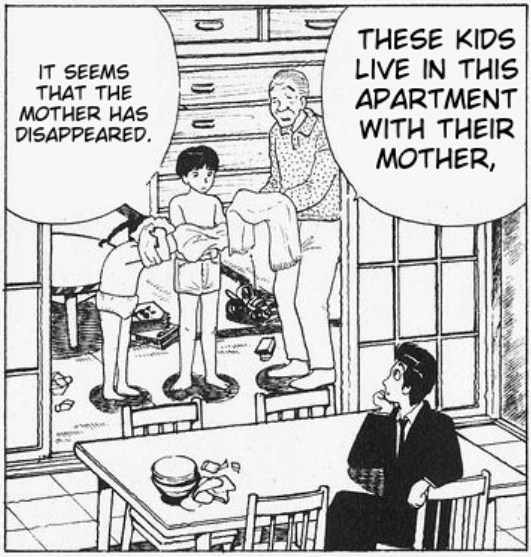
YAMAOKA, WHO ARE THESE KIDS?
OH, KURITA.
HUH? MOM?

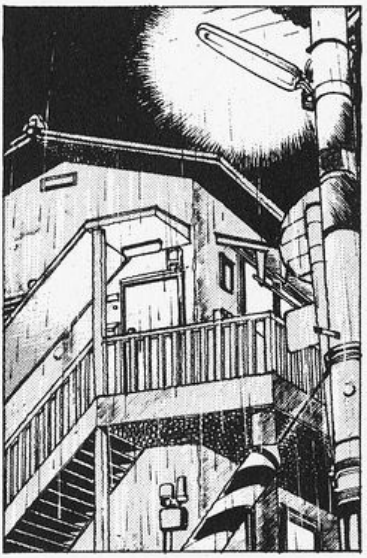
6

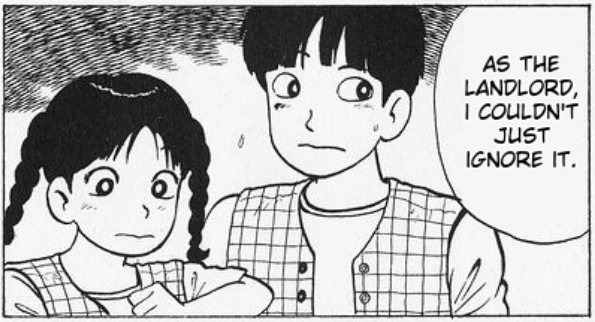

ON FRIDAY NIGHT...
I CALLED YOU BECAUSE THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK ABOUT THESE KIDS.

DELICIOUS!

IF ONLY THERE WASN'T SUCH A THING AS THE RAINY SEASON, JAPAN WOULD BE A GREAT COUNTRY...
DAMN, IT JUST KEEPS RAINING...
ドシ
YIKES!
WHOA!!
7
CATCH THOSE KIDS!
HEY, ARE YOU OKAY?


IT SEEMS THAT THE MOTHER HAS DISAPPEARED.
THESE KIDS LIVE IN THIS APARTMENT WITH THEIR MOTHER,




AS THE LANDLORD, I COULDN'T JUST IGNORE IT.

DISAPPEARED?

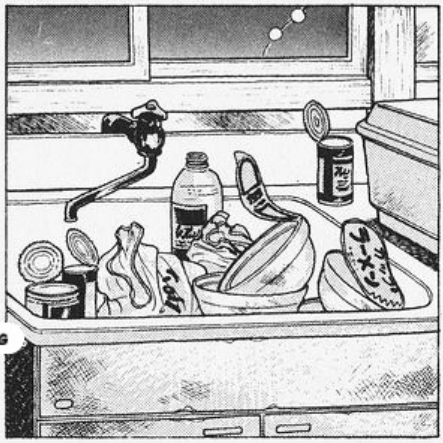
WHY DID YOU RUN AWAY?

8

BECAUSE...
BECAUSE...

FOR SOME REASON, THESE TWO RAN AWAY IN A HURRY...
WELL, ANYWAY, WE DECIDED TO GO TO THE POLICE AND ASK THEM TO HELP US FIND HER, AND WHEN WE WENT OUTSIDE,
HMM?

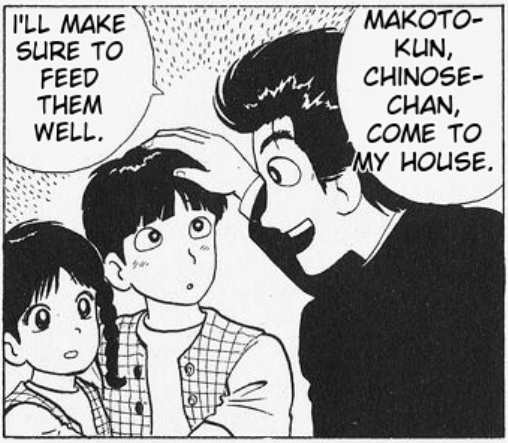
THEY DON'T HAVE ANY FOOD BECAUSE THEIR MOM IS GONE...
I SEE...


ラーメン

SO THEY WERE SHOPLIFTING

I CAN TAKE CARE OF THEM UNTIL WE FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THEIR MOTHER, BUT RIGHT NOW, MY WIFE IS HOSPITALIZED...
WELL THEN... WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH THESE TWO?!

THAT'S UNDERSTANDABLE... I DIDN'T MEAN TO SUGGEST GOING TO THE POLICE ABOUT IT...


I'LL MAKE SURE TO FEED THEM WELL.
MAKOTO-KUN, CHINOSE-CHAN, COME TO MY HOUSE.

I'LL TAKE CARE OF THEM.

EH? IS THAT OKAY?!

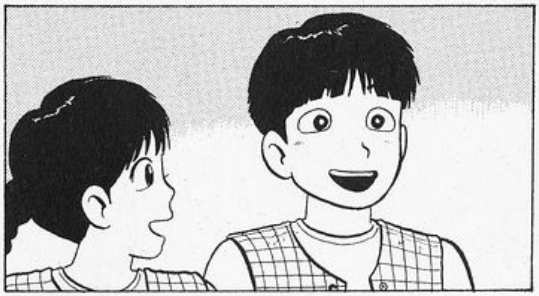
EXPLAIN THE SITUATION TO THE MANAGER AND GET PERMISSION FOR A LONG LEAVE...
MY REQUEST TO YOU IS...
SO, I HAVE TO TAKE SOME TIME OFF WORK FOR A WHILE.
BUT YOU...
NO! YOU CAN'T JUST USE THESE KIDS AS AN EXCUSE TO SLACK OFF WORK, THAT'S TOO SOFT!
I'M SHOCKED! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
10
DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING!
幡中学習塾
I'LL FIND SOMEONE TO TAKE CARE OF THESE CHILDREN.

THANK YOU, HATANAKA.
THAT'S GREAT TO HEAR.

THERE ARE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO COME TO THE CRAM SCHOOL, SO THERE'S NO SHORTAGE OF FRIENDS.
THIS IS CLOSE TO MAKOTO'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL; YOU CAN COMMUTE FROM HERE.

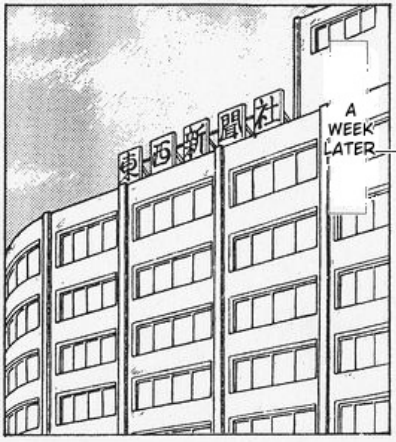
WELL, IT'S A REQUEST FROM NONE OTHER THAN KURITA'S GRANDMOTHER.

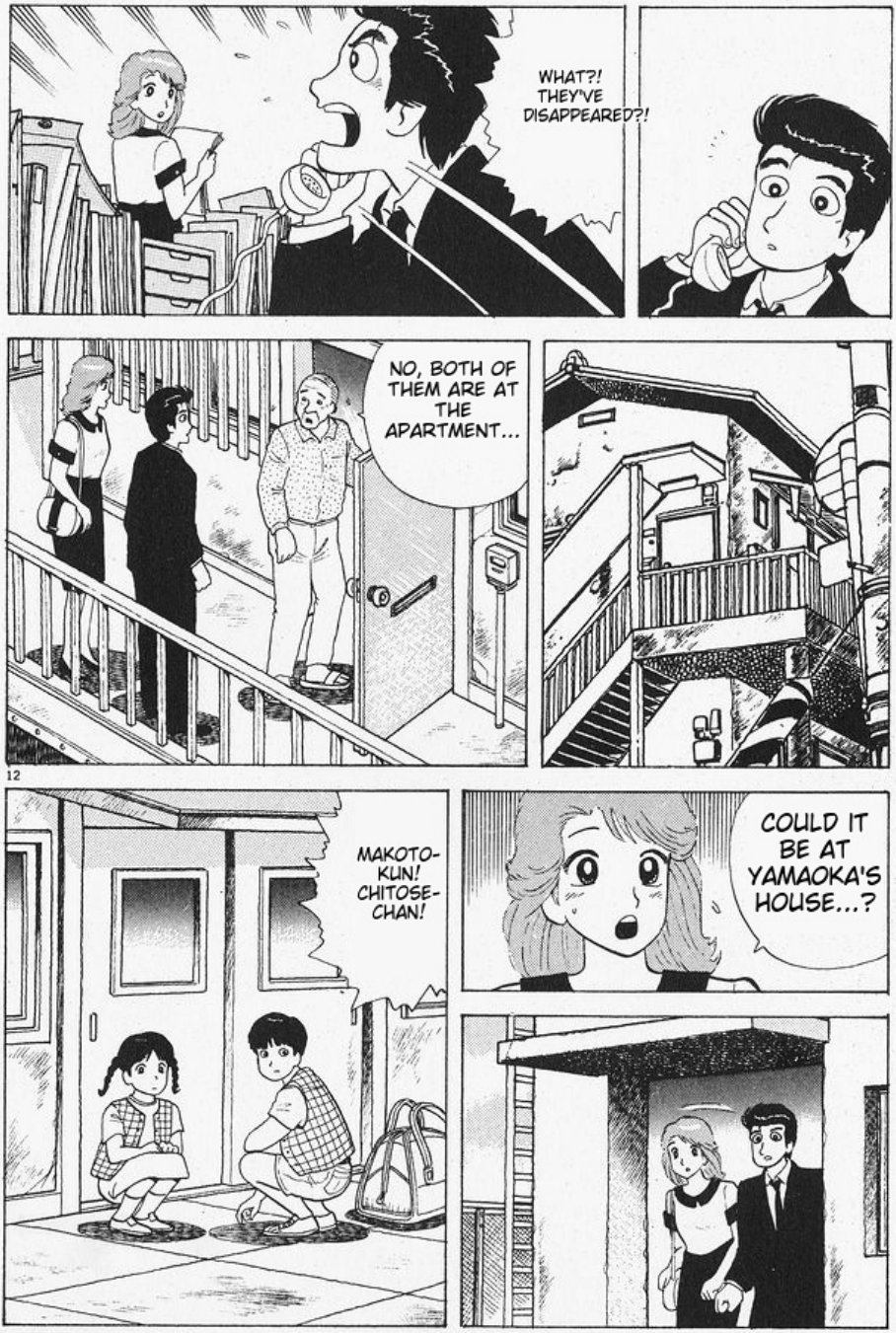
11



I'LL HELP YOU FIND YOUR MOTHER SOON!

MAKOTO AND CHITOSE, ARE YOU DOING WELL?
OH, HATANAKA, THANK YOU FOR THAT TIME...


A WEEK LATER

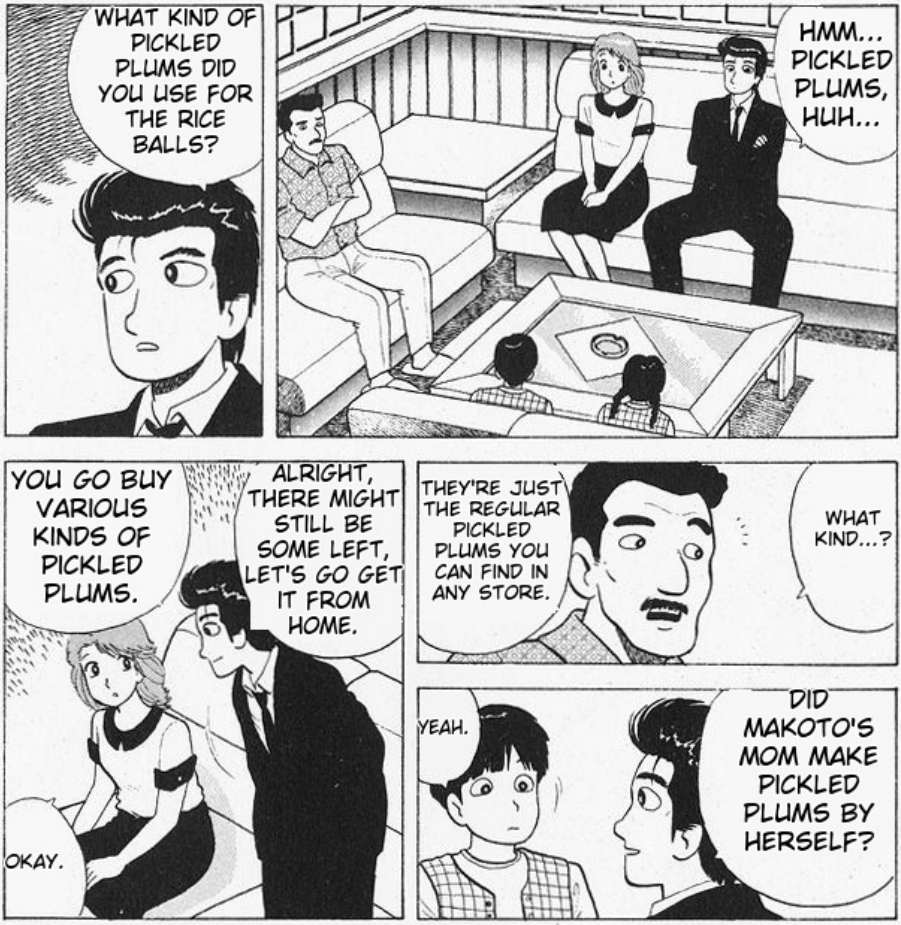

WHAT?! THEY'VE DISAPPEARED?!
NO, BOTH OF THEM ARE AT THE APARTMENT...
12
MAKOTO-KUN! CHITOSE-CHAN!
COULD IT BE AT YAMAOKA'S HOUSE...?

.....
WHY DID YOU LEAVE HATANAKA'S HOUSE?! I WAS WORRIED!
幡中学習塾
UMEBOSHI?
THE CAUSE WAS UMEBOSHI.
13
BUT THEN...
YESTERDAY, SUNDAY, I TOOK THE TWO OF THEM ON A FIELD TRIP WITH MY STUDENTS.

THAT'S A HUGE RICE BALL!
HOW UNCOOL.
WELL THEN! THIS LUNCH WAS MADE WITH LOVE JUST FOR YOU ALL.
MAKE SURE TO SAVOR IT.
THAT'S A POORLY MADE RICE BALL! DIDN'T THE TEACHER MAKE IT?!
HEY, IF YOU DON'T EAT IT WITH GRATITUDE, YOU WON'T PASS THE EXAM!
14
ポト

DELICIOUS!

DO YOU DISLIKE PICKLED PLUMS?
NO, I ACTUALLY LIKE IT.
ポト
THAT'S RIDICULOUS...
IT HAS A WEIRD TASTE AND MAKES ME FEEL SICK.
I DON'T LIKE THIS PICKLED PLUM BECAUSE IT TASTES BAD.
THEN WHY DON'T YOU EAT IT?
15
I WANT TO EAT MY MOM'S PICKLED PLUMS!!
STOP BEING SO SELFISH!
LOOK AT EVERYONE, THEY'RE EATING IT JUST FINE!


WHAT KIND OF PICKLED PLUMS DID YOU USE FOR THE RICE BALLS?
HMM... PICKLED PLUMS, HUH...
YOU GO BUY VARIOUS KINDS OF PICKLED PLUMS.
ALRIGHT, THERE MIGHT STILL BE SOME LEFT, LET'S GO GET IT FROM HOME.
OKAY.
THEY'RE JUST THE REGULAR PICKLED PLUMS YOU CAN FIND IN ANY STORE.
WHAT KIND...?
YEAH.
DID MAKOTO'S MOM MAKE PICKLED PLUMS BY HERSELF?
16
HEY, HEY, WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON?!
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

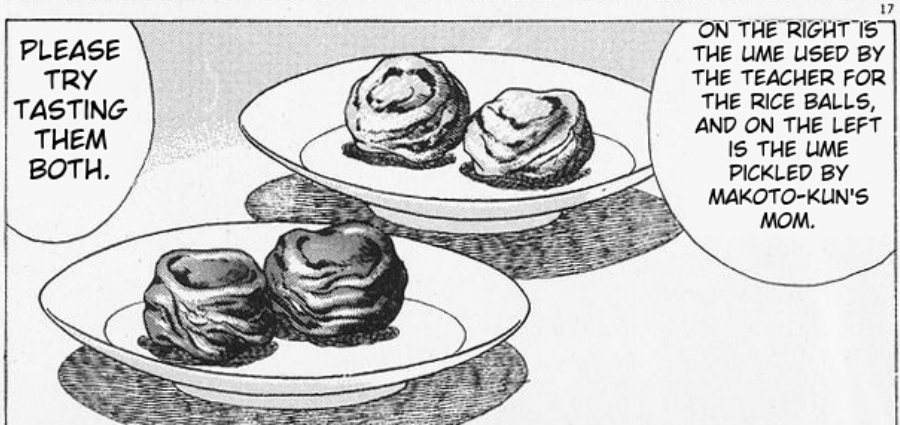
DELICIOUS!

梅干し
梅干し
梅干し
梅干し
梅干し

THIS ONE.
WHAT DID THE TEACHER BUY?

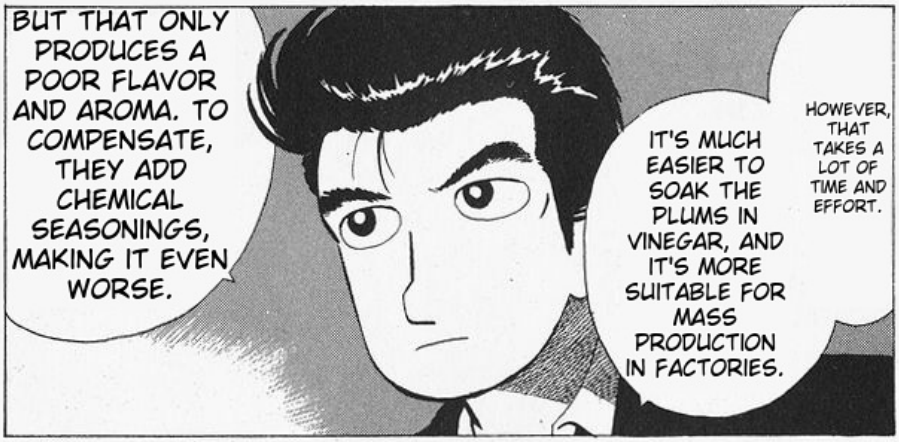
I SEE...

THE ONE IN THIS JAR IS PICKLED BY MAKOTO-KUN'S MOM.
THIS IS STORE-BOUGHT.


PLEASE TRY TASTING THEM BOTH.
ON THE RIGHT IS THE UME USED BY THE TEACHER FOR THE RICE BALLS, AND ON THE LEFT IS THE UME PICKLED BY MAKOTO-KUN'S MOM.

EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE BOTH UMEBOSHI, THE TASTES ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT!
OH, WHAT IS THIS...!
ゴクン
WHY DOES IT TASTE SO DIFFERENT...?
IN CONTRAST, THE BOUGHT ONE HAS NO AROMA AND A WEAK FLAVOR.
MAKOTO'S MOTHER'S HAS A STRONG PLUM FRAGRANCE, AND THE TASTE OF THE PLUM ITSELF IS RICH.
18
THEN NATURALLY, THE PLUM VINEGAR WILL BE MADE ALONG WITH IT.
UMEBOSHI IS ORIGINALLY JUST MADE BY PICKLING PLUMS IN SALT.
THE ONE WE BOUGHT ISN'T REAL UMEBOSHI.
PICKLED PLUM!?!
TO BE PRECISE, THIS IS PICKLED PLUM.

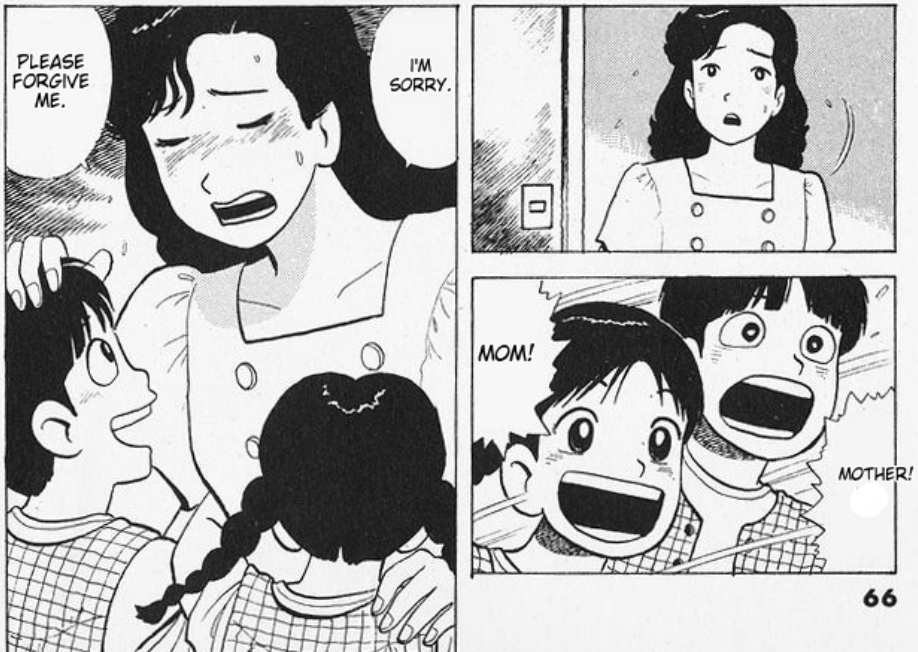
DELICIOUS!



19

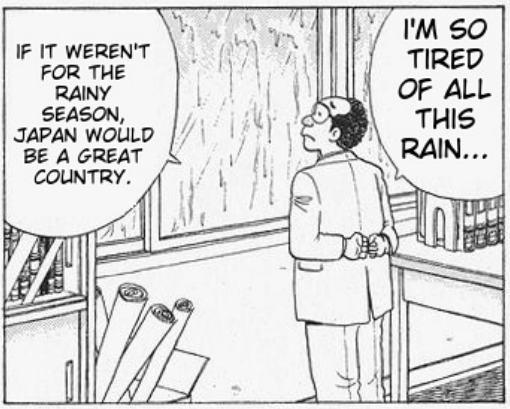
I DIDN'T EVEN REALIZE THAT...
I SEE, WANTING TO EAT REAL UMEBOSHI WAS ALSO A MANIFESTATION OF MY LONGING FOR MY MOTHER.
WHAT?!
MAKOTO-KUN AND CHITOSE-CHAN'S MOTHER!
YOU!

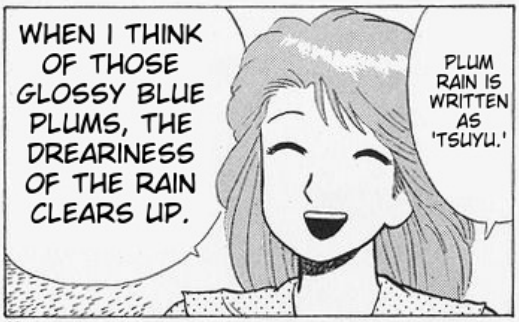
20


PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
I'M SORRY.
MOM!
MOTHER!

DELICIOUS!

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF YOU DIE!!
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT DYING!
BUT...
I'M EXHAUSTED AND THOUGHT ABOUT DYING...
...AFTER MY MASTER DIED, HARDSHIPS CONTINUED, AND I WASN'T BLESSED WITH A GOOD JOB...
PLEASE COME WORK WITH US!
ANYONE WHO CAN MAKE SUCH WONDERFUL UMEBOSHI IS DEFINITELY THE RIGHT PERSON!
I WAS LOOKING FOR A SERIOUS OFFICE WORKER.
HOW ABOUT TRYING TO WORK AT OUR CRAM SCHOOL?!
THAT'S GREAT, MA'AM!
21
I'M SO HAPPY!


IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE RAINY SEASON, JAPAN WOULD BE A GREAT COUNTRY.
I'M SO TIRED OF ALL THIS RAIN...

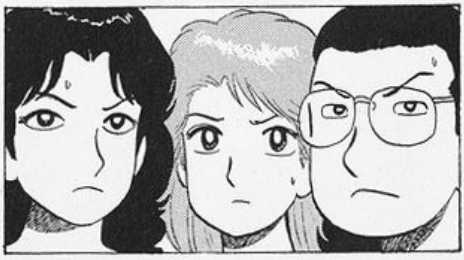

WHEN I THINK OF THOSE GLOSSY BLUE PLUMS, THE DREARINESS OF THE RAIN CLEARS UP.
PLUM RAIN IS WRITTEN AS 'TSUYU.'

ISN'T THAT NICE?

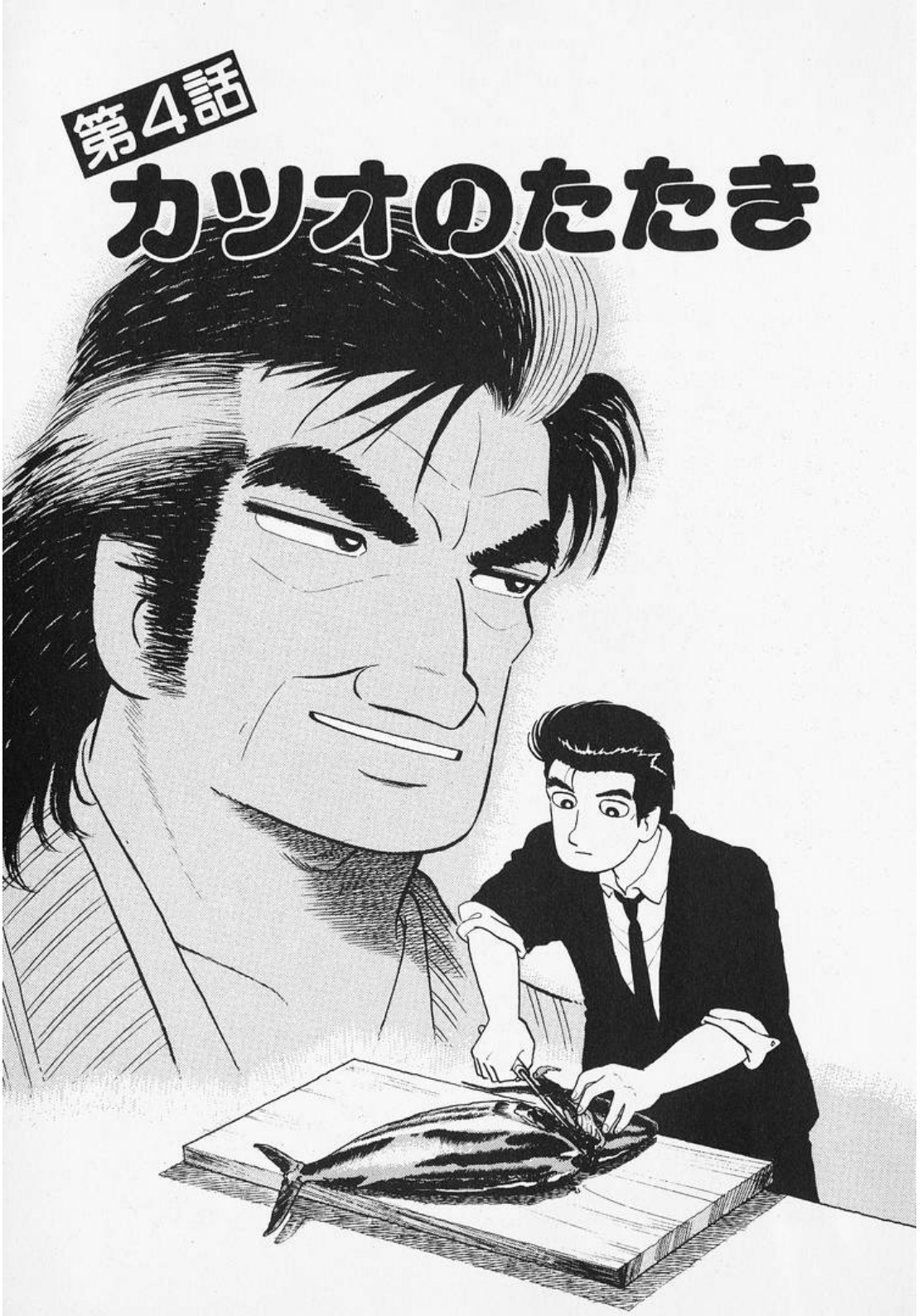
22

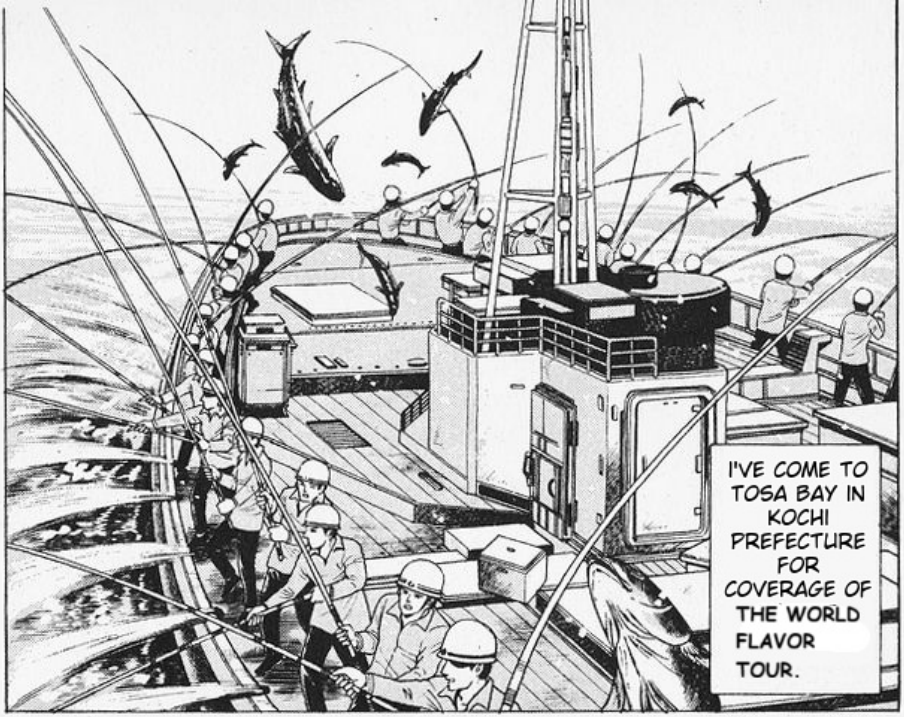
HOW DARE YOU! UMEBOSHI AREN'T SWEET!!
ARE YOU CALLING ME AN UMEBOSHI GRANDMA?!

YOU LADIES KNOW ALL ABOUT THAT, HAHA.
THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL WHILE THEY'RE STILL GREEN, BUT AS THEY AGE, THEY GET A BIT SOUR...

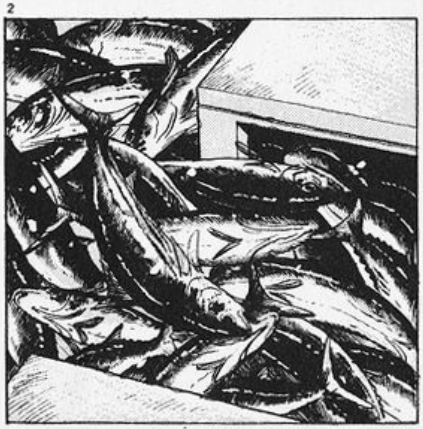


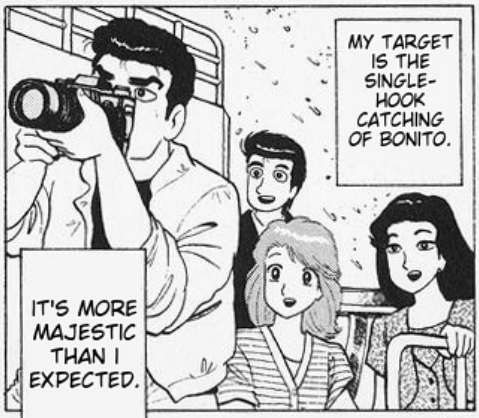
第4話
カツオのたたき



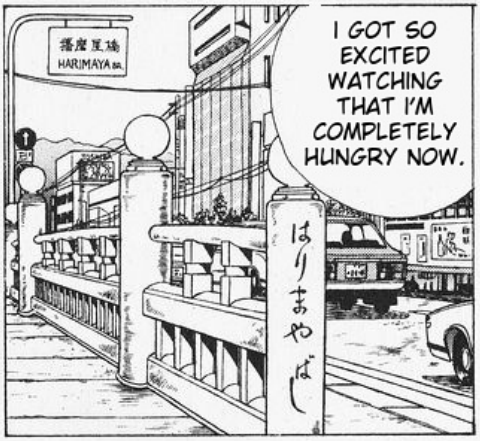

I'VE COME TO TOSA BAY IN KOCHI PREFECTURE FOR COVERAGE OF THE WORLD FLAVOR TOUR.

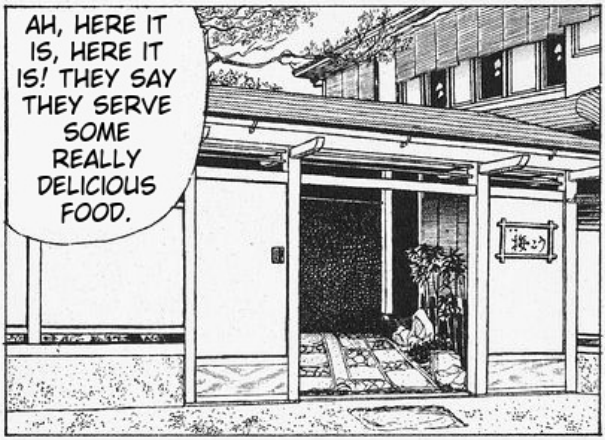
2

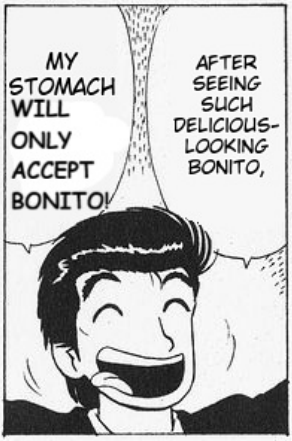



MY TARGET IS THE SINGLE-HOOK CATCHING OF BONITO.
IT'S MORE MAJESTIC THAN I EXPECTED.

OF COURSE!
LET'S HAVE SOME BONITO, SHALL WE?


HARIMAYA BR.
I GOT SO EXCITED WATCHING THAT I'M COMPLETELY HUNGRY NOW.
はりまやばし


AH, HERE IT IS, HERE IT IS! THEY SAY THEY SERVE SOME REALLY DELICIOUS FOOD.

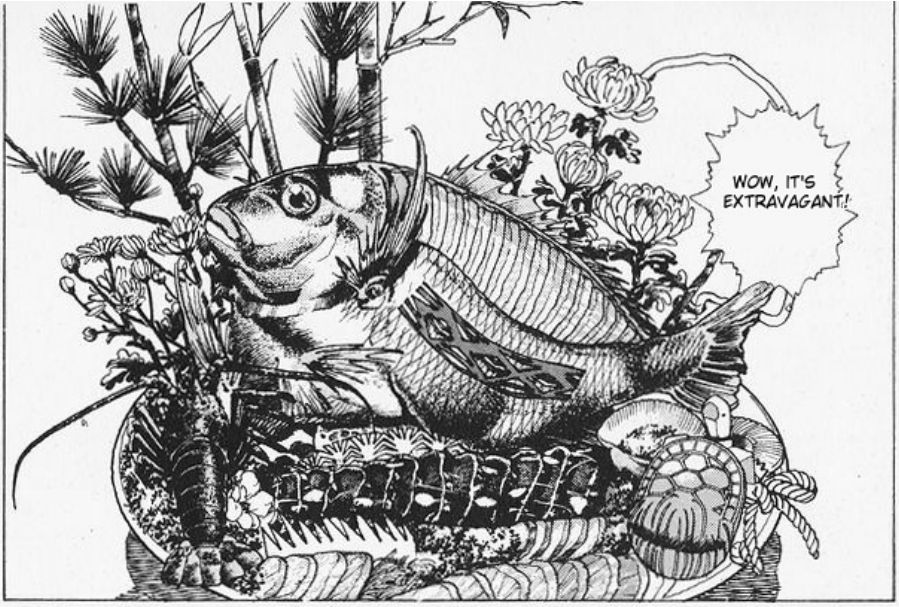

MY STOMACH WILL ONLY ACCEPT BONITO!
AFTER SEEING SUCH DELICIOUS-LOOKING BONITO,

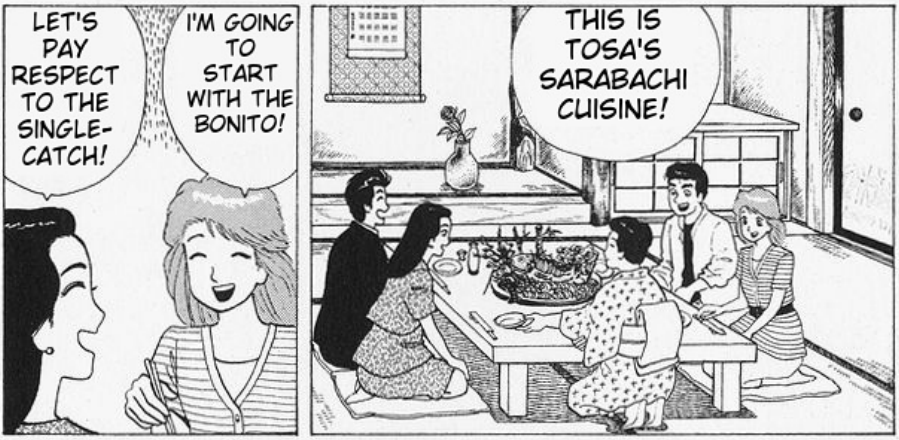
3

ALRIGHT, LET'S GO IN.
WELL, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO TOLD ME...

.....?

HUH...
HMM, CHIKIJO-SAN, WHO TOLD YOU ABOUT THIS PLACE?


WOW, IT'S EXTRAVAGANT!


LET'S PAY RESPECT TO THE SINGLE-CATCH!
I'M GOING TO START WITH THE BONITO!
THIS IS TOSA'S SARABACHI CUISINE!

4

NOT AT ALL! IT IS A GREAT HONOR TO HAVE THE TEACHER VISIT US.
IS THAT SO? THE TRUTH IS, THEY MIGHT BE FEELING ANNOYED.

♫
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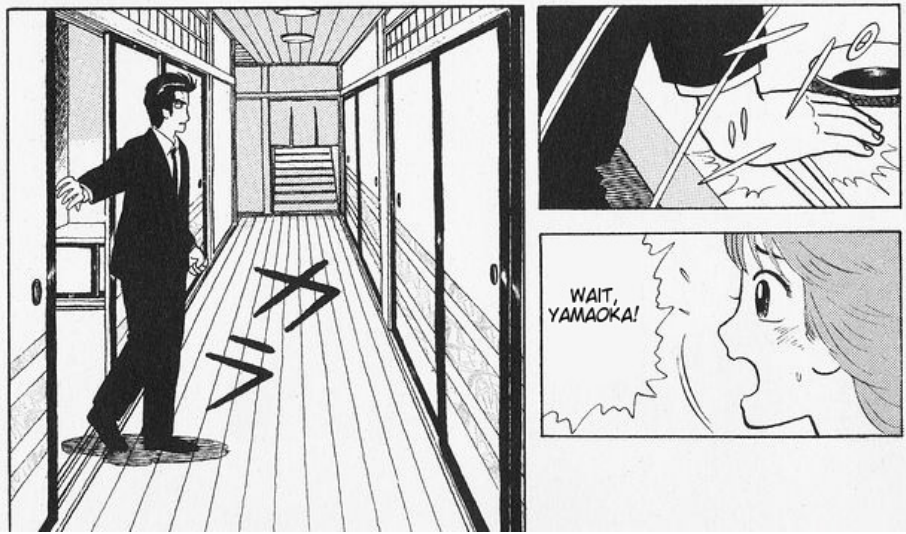
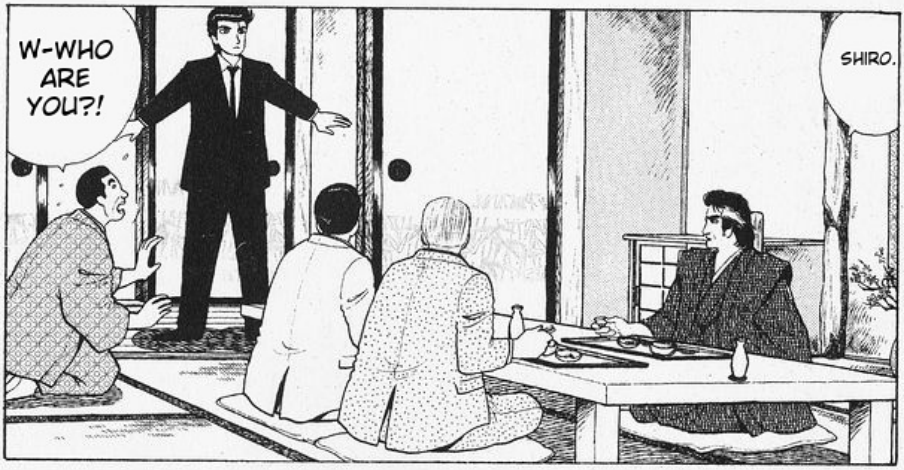
COME NOW, PLEASE HAVE THE TEACHER COME; IT WILL MOTIVATE THE STAFF AT THE SHOP.

THE GUESTS IN THE NEXT ROOM SEEM TO BE QUITE IMPORTANT...
ギョッ!
FIRST OF ALL, THE MAN IN CHARGE OF MAKING THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' IS A COMPLETE FOOL.
AH...
HAHAHA, THAT'S ONLY NATURAL; CALLING IT THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' IS A BAD JOKE.
THE AFTERTASTE IS REALLY NICE!
HMM, THIS CHEWY TEXTURE!
THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' IS QUITE A DROP COMPARED TO THAT.
I'M ALWAYS LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR 'SUPREME MENU,' SENSEI.

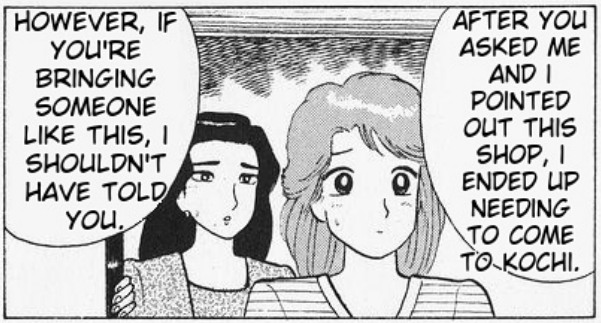

WAIT, YAMAOKA!


W-WHO ARE YOU?!
SHIRO.

THIS GUY IS THE BIG IDIOT IN CHARGE OF THE 'ULTIMATE MENU'.

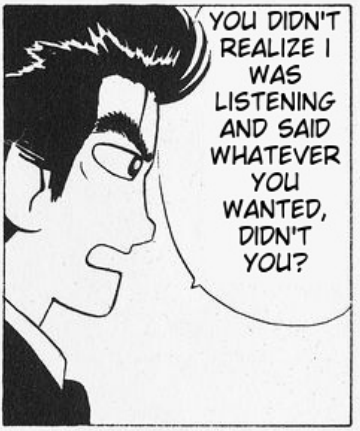
6

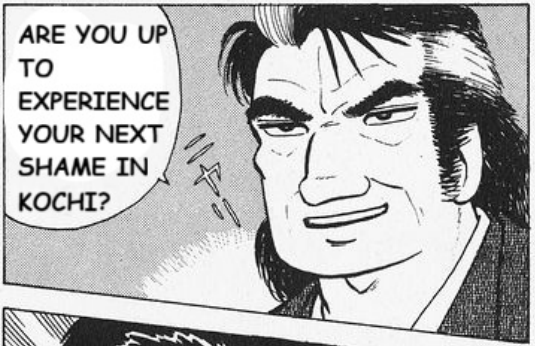
WELL, CHIKIJO-SAN. I DID NOT EXPECT YOU TO BE WITH HIM.


HOWEVER, IF YOU'RE BRINGING SOMEONE LIKE THIS, I SHOULDN'T HAVE TOLD YOU.
AFTER YOU ASKED ME AND I POINTED OUT THIS SHOP, I ENDED UP NEEDING TO COME TO KOCHI.

Y-YES, I DIDN'T KNOW THAT YOU'D BE HERE TODAY, SENSEI.

HMPH!
I DON'T GIVE A DAMN IF YOU HEAR ME OR NOT, SHIRO.


YOU DIDN'T REALIZE I WAS LISTENING AND SAID WHATEVER YOU WANTED, DIDN'T YOU?


ARE YOU UP TO EXPERIENCE YOUR NEXT SHAME IN KOCHI?

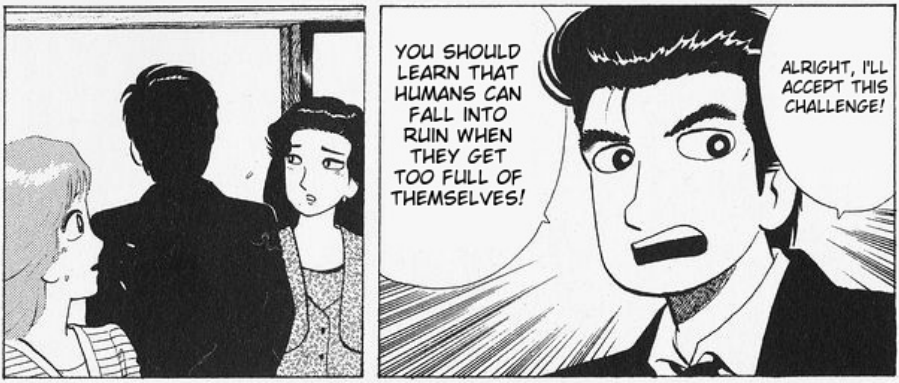
WHAT?!

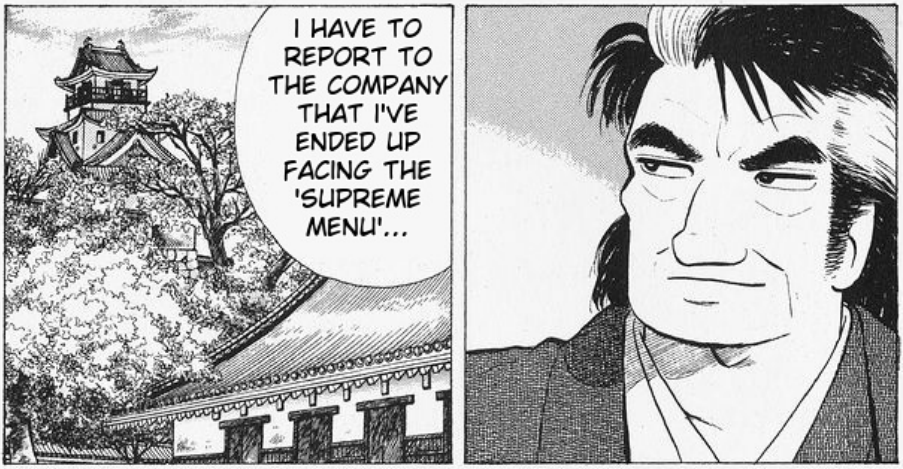
I SEE, AT THIS TIME OF YEAR IT'S BONITO, AND IT'S CAUGHT BY POLE AND LINE.
RESEARCHING IN KOCHI, HUH...
UH... YES.

I PLAN TO TALK USING VARIOUS MISTAKES YOU MADE AS MATERIAL.
DURING THE LECTURE, I WILL PRESENT THE SHOWDOWN BETWEEN THE 'SUPREME MENU' AND THE 'ULTIMATE MENU',
THE PURPOSE IS TO GIVE A LECTURE TO THE NEW EMPLOYEES TOMORROW...
I CAME TO KOCHI AT THE REQUEST OF THE BRANCH MANAGER OF NISHITAKA BANK HERE,
WHAT ARE YOU TELLING ME TO DO?!
IF YOU CAN ACTUALLY SHOW THAT FOOLISHNESS IN FRONT OF THE NEW EMPLOYEES,
I WILL ALSO MAKE IT.
TRY MAKING BONITO FOR THEM.
A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS, AND IT WILL PROVIDE THEM WITH A VALUABLE LESSON.

8

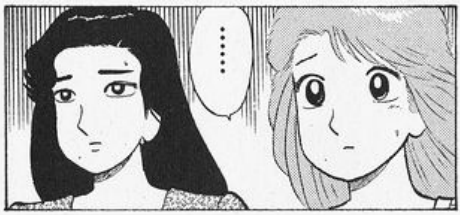
LET'S HAVE A SHOWDOWN BETWEEN THE 'SUPREME MENU' AND THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' WITH BONITO TATAKI!
TO WITNESS THIS WITH MY OWN EYES WOULD BE AN INCREDIBLE STROKE OF LUCK!


YOU SHOULD LEARN THAT HUMANS CAN FALL INTO RUIN WHEN THEY GET TOO FULL OF THEMSELVES!
ALRIGHT, I'LL ACCEPT THIS CHALLENGE!


I HAVE TO REPORT TO THE COMPANY THAT I'VE ENDED UP FACING THE 'SUPREME MENU'...

9

IN THE END, THE QUALITY OF THE BONITO WILL BE THE DECIDING FACTOR.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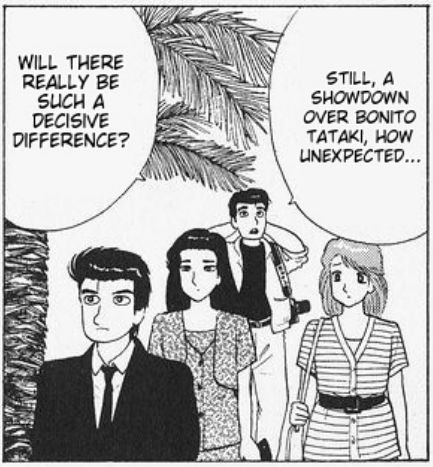
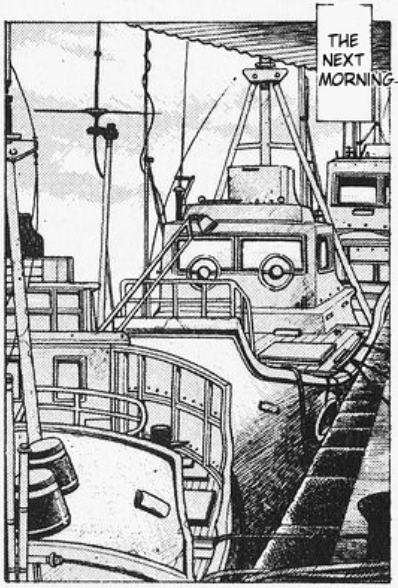
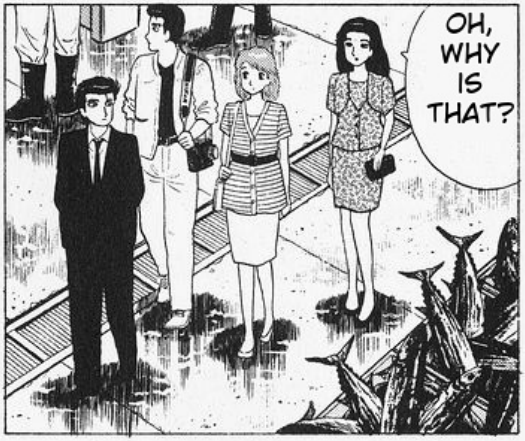

WILL THERE REALLY BE SUCH A DECISIVE DIFFERENCE?
STILL, A SHOWDOWN OVER BONITO TATAKI, HOW UNEXPECTED...

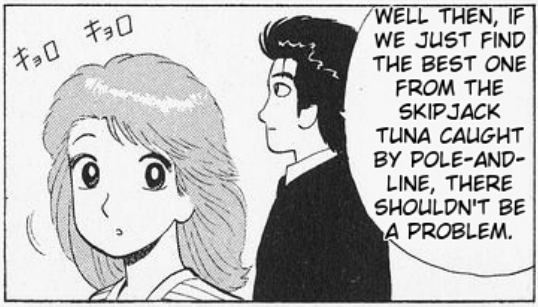
SKIPJACK CAUGHT BY NET HAVE SOFT FLESH.
FOR TATAKI, IT HAS TO BE SKIPJACK CAUGHT BY POLE-AND-LINE.


THE NEXT MORNING

THAT'S WHAT BREAKS DOWN THE FLESH OF THE SKIPJACK.
WHEN THE NET IS PULLED UP, HUNDREDS OF SKIPJACK ARE SQUEEZED TOGETHER, AND THEIR BODIES COLLIDE WITH EACH OTHER.


OH, WHY IS THAT?

10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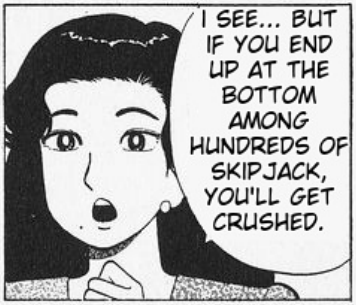
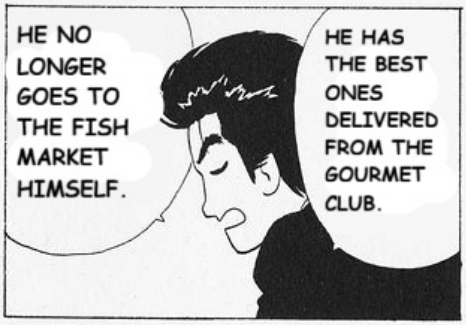
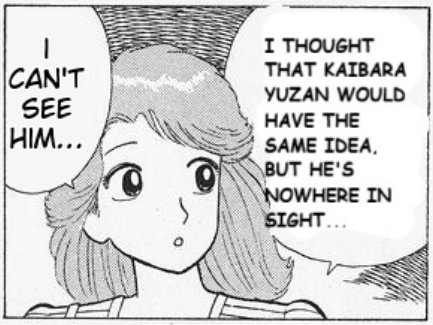
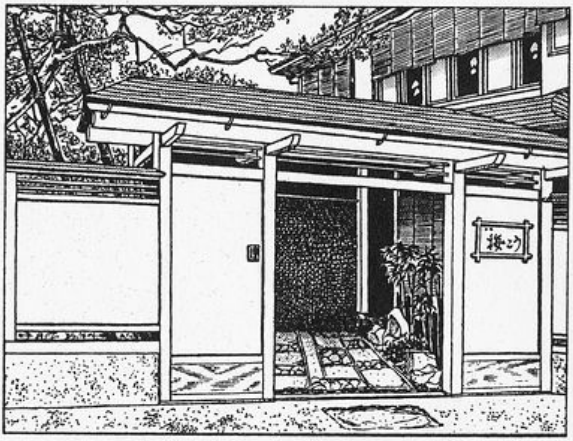
WELL THEN, IF WE JUST FIND THE BEST ONE FROM THE SKIPJACK TUNA CAUGHT BY POLE-AND-LINE, THERE SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM.


I SEE... BUT IF YOU END UP AT THE BOTTOM AMONG HUNDREDS OF SKIPJACK, YOU'LL GET CRUSHED.


HE NO LONGER GOES TO THE FISH MARKET HIMSELF.
HE HAS THE BEST ONES DELIVERED FROM THE GOURMET CLUB.


I CAN'T SEE HIM...
I THOUGHT THAT KAIBARA YUZAN WOULD HAVE THE SAME IDEA, BUT HE'S NOWHERE IN SIGHT...

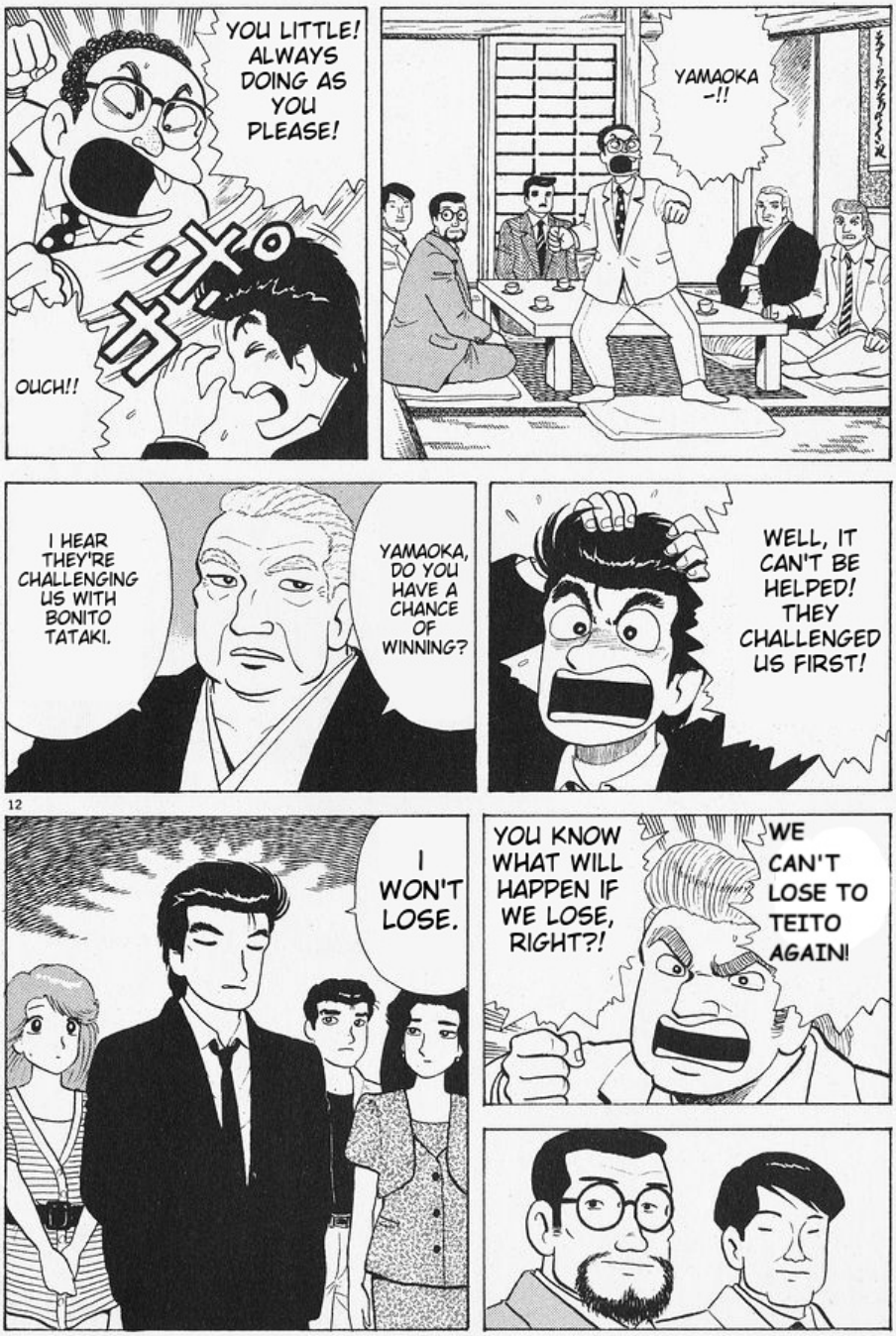


11

THE COMPANY IS WAITING FOR YOU.

HUH...

PLEASE, GO AHEAD.
AH! THE SHOWDOWN TIME WAS NOON, WASN'T IT? I'LL BORROW THE KITCHEN.

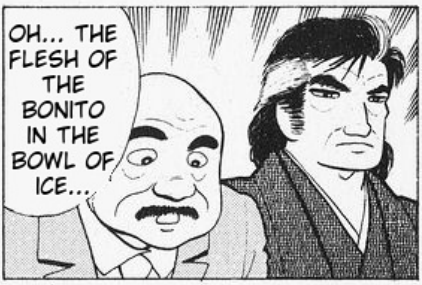

YOU LITTLE! ALWAYS DOING AS YOU PLEASE!
ゴツ
OUCH!!
YAMAOKA -!!
I HEAR THEY'RE CHALLENGING US WITH BONITO TATAKI.
YAMAOKA, DO YOU HAVE A CHANCE OF WINNING?
WELL, IT CAN'T BE HELPED! THEY CHALLENGED US FIRST!
12
I WON'T LOSE.
YOU KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF WE LOSE, RIGHT?!
WE CAN'T LOSE TO TEITO AGAIN!

TODAY'S EVALUATION WILL BE CONDUCTED BY THE NEW EMPLOYEES OF NISHITAKA BANK.

13

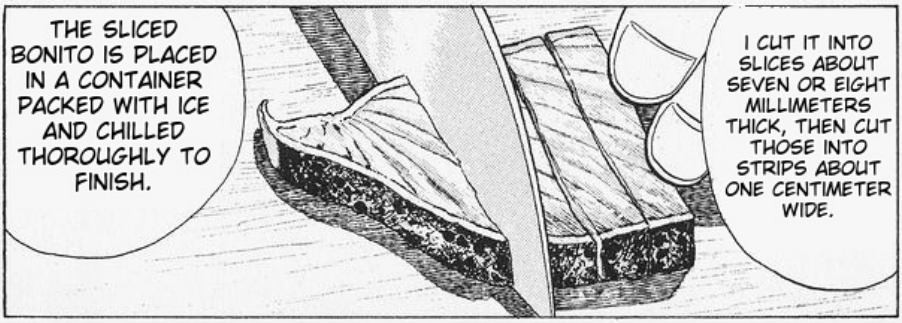
NOW, LET US BEGIN WITH THE 'ULTIMATE MENU'.

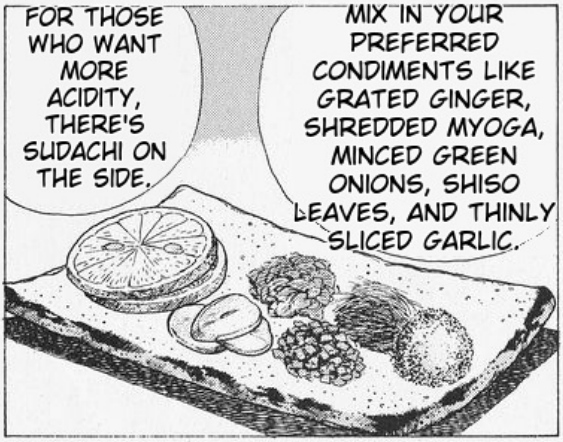
SINCE BONITO OFTEN HAS PARASITES UNDER THE SKIN, I MAKE SURE TO COOK IT UNTIL IT'S LIGHTLY CHARRED UNDER THE SKIN.
AFTER FILLETING, I GRILL THE SKIN.

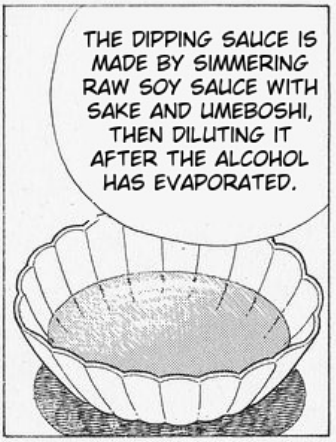

OH... THE FLESH OF THE BONITO IN THE BOWL OF ICE...

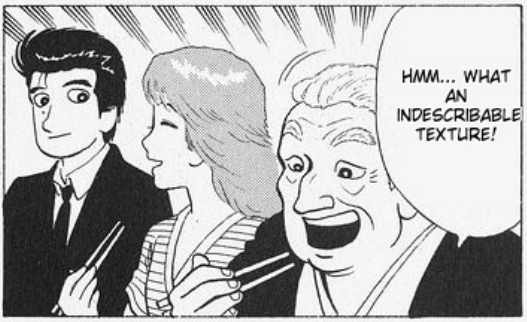
IT'S IMPORTANT FOR BONITO TO BE FIRM, SO I USE ONES CAUGHT BY HANDLINE.

14


THE SLICED BONITO IS PLACED IN A CONTAINER PACKED WITH ICE AND CHILLED THOROUGHLY TO FINISH.
I CUT IT INTO SLICES ABOUT SEVEN OR EIGHT MILLIMETERS THICK, THEN CUT THOSE INTO STRIPS ABOUT ONE CENTIMETER WIDE.


FOR THOSE WHO WANT MORE ACIDITY, THERE'S SUDACHI ON THE SIDE.
MIX IN YOUR PREFERRED CONDIMENTS LIKE GRATED GINGER, SHREDDED MYOGA, MINCED GREEN ONIONS, SHISO LEAVES, AND THINLY SLICED GARLIC.


THE DIPPING SAUCE IS MADE BY SIMMERING RAW SOY SAUCE WITH SAKE AND UMEBOSHI, THEN DILUTING IT AFTER THE ALCOHOL HAS EVAPORATED.


HMM... WHAT AN INDESCRIBABLE TEXTURE!

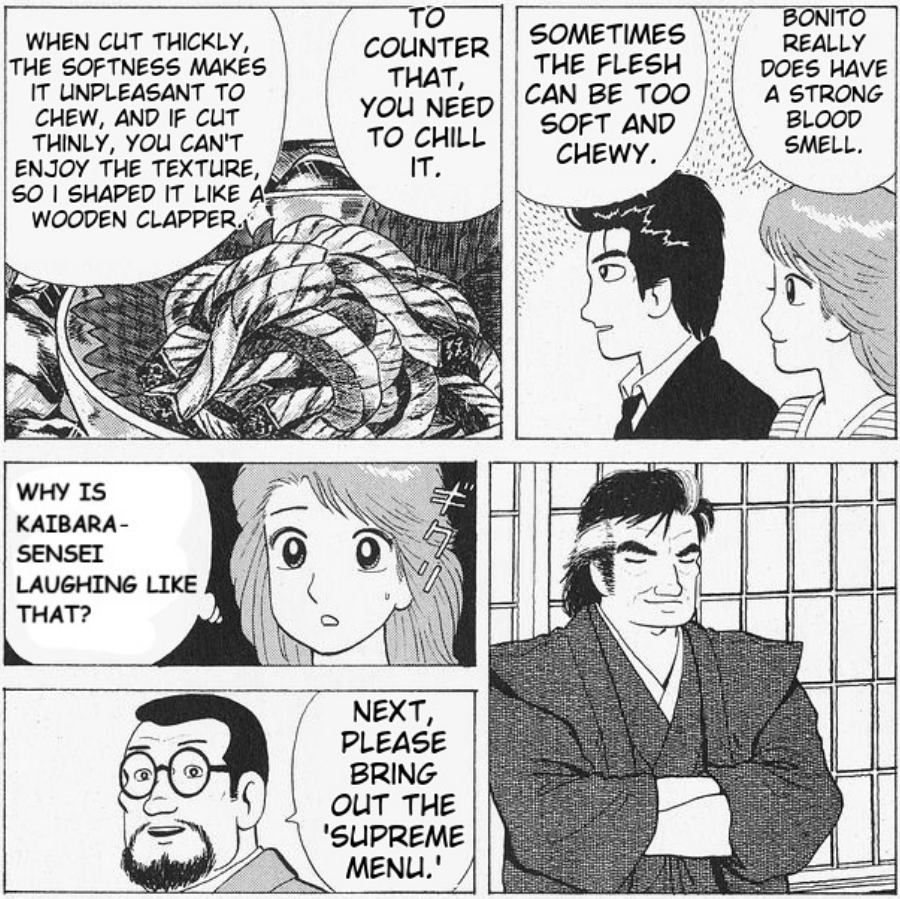
OH! THE BONITO IS CHILLINGLY COLD!

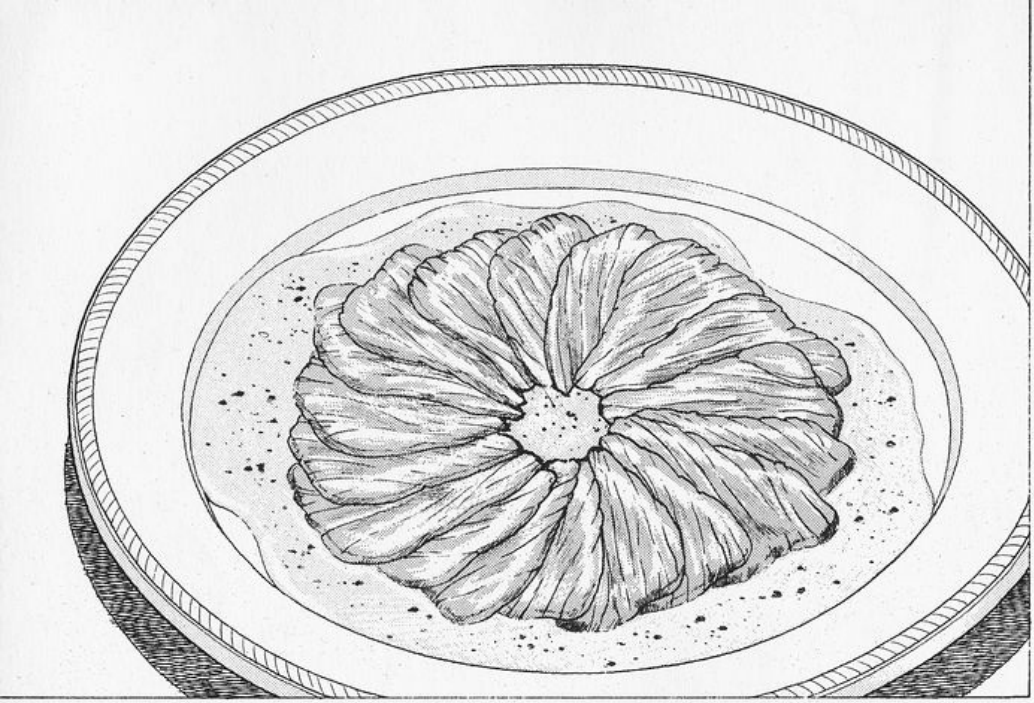
15

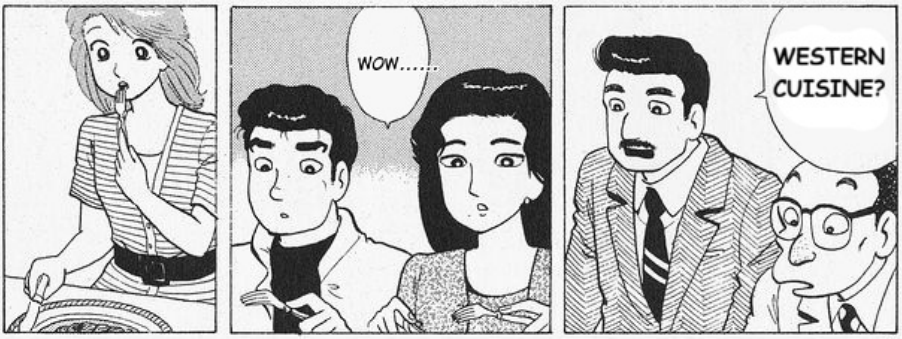
THE TASTE OF THE BONITO BECOMES MUSHY AND WEAK.
IF YOU LEAVE IT TOO LONG, IT STARTS TO SMELL FISHY,

THERE IS A COOKING METHOD WHERE YOU ARRANGE THIN SLICES OF BONITO, ADD THE CONDIMENTS, AND DRIZZLE WITH VINEGAR-SOY SAUCE, LETTING IT SIT FOR A WHILE, BUT I DON'T LIKE IT.
COMMONLY KNOWN AS BONITO TATAKI,

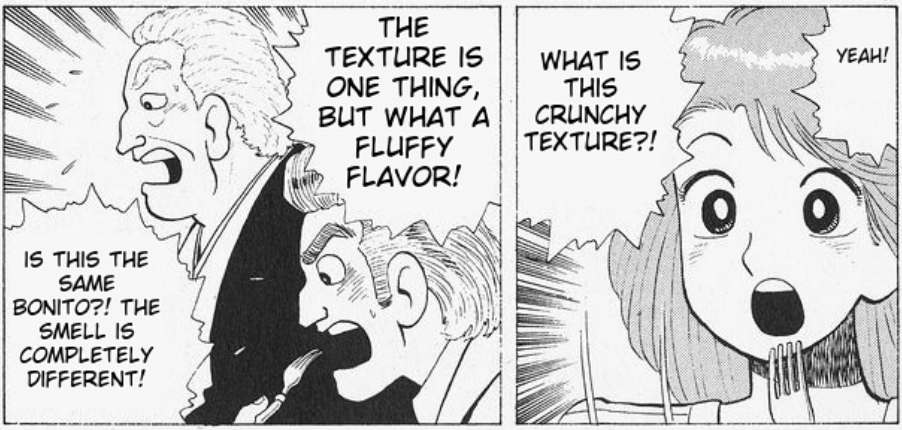
INDEED, USING THAT METHOD WOULD RUIN THE FLAVOR OF THE BONITO.
I SEE.


WHEN CUT THICKLY, THE SOFTNESS MAKES IT UNPLEASANT TO CHEW, AND IF CUT THINLY, YOU CAN'T ENJOY THE TEXTURE, SO I SHAPED IT LIKE A WOODEN CLAPPER.
TO COUNTER THAT, YOU NEED TO CHILL IT.
SOMETIMES THE FLESH CAN BE TOO SOFT AND CHEWY.
BONITO REALLY DOES HAVE A STRONG BLOOD SMELL.
WHY IS KAIBARA-SENSEI LAUGHING LIKE THAT?
ギクッ
NEXT, PLEASE BRING OUT THE 'SUPREME MENU.'
16
SO, WHAT I MADE IS THIS.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN ANY COOKING METHOD THAT INVOLVES EATING BONITO RAW COULD BE CALLED TATAKI.
WHAT EXACTLY IS BONITO TATAKI? THE ORIGIN OF THE WORD TATAKI IS NOT EVEN CLEAR.



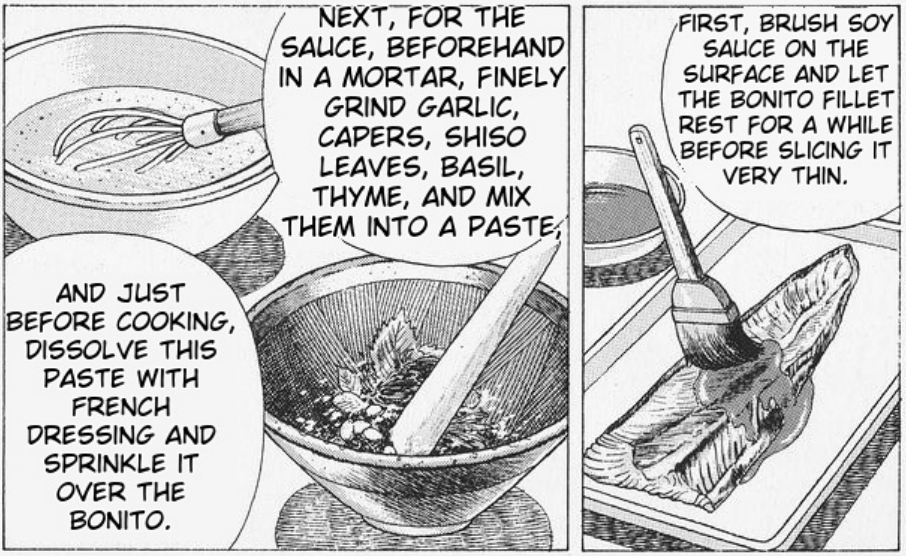

WOW.....
WESTERN CUISINE?

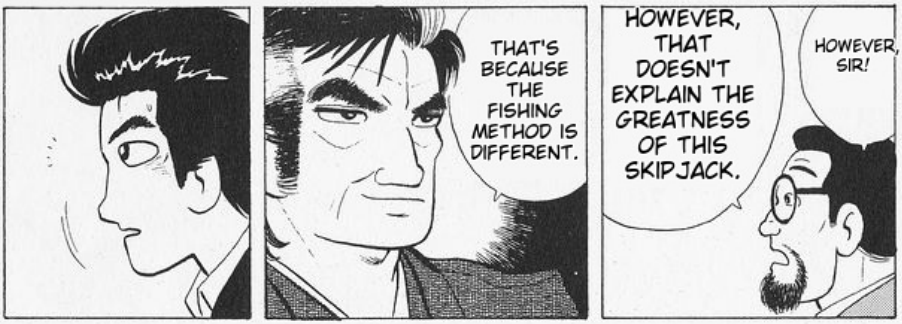
17

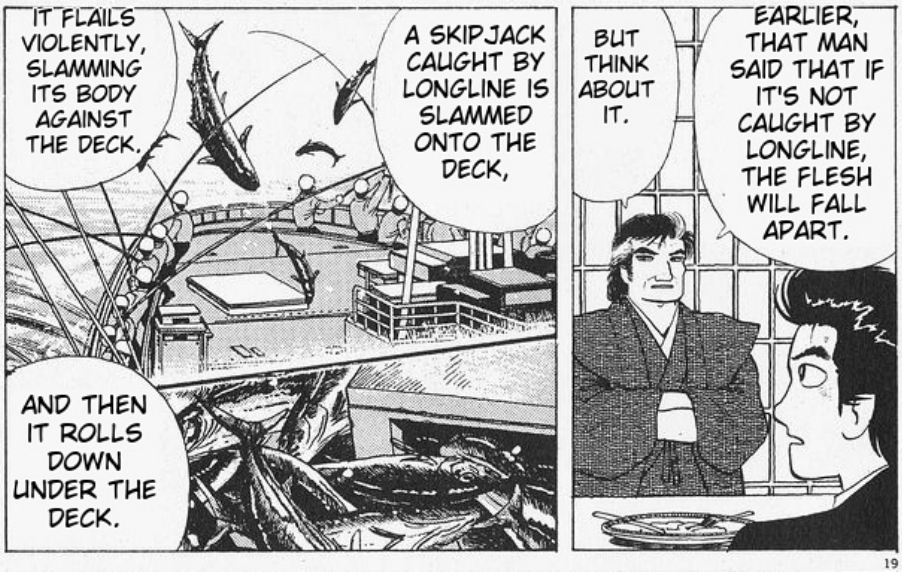

THE TEXTURE IS ONE THING, BUT WHAT A FLUFFY FLAVOR!
IS THIS THE SAME BONITO?! THE SMELL IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT!
WHAT IS THIS CRUNCHY TEXTURE?!
YEAH!

お…っこ…
I ALWAYS THOUGHT BONITO HAD A STRONG BLOOD SMELL, BUT THIS ONE DOESN'T SMELL LIKE BLOOD AT ALL!
THE SMELL... YES!
TO CREATE THE RICH TASTE OF RETURNING BONITO.
WITH THIS YOUNG BONITO'S FLAVOR, I TRIED DRIZZLING IT WITH A SAUCE THAT CONTAINS FAT,
THEY SAY THE TRULY DELICIOUS BONITO IS THE RETURNING BONITO IN THE FALL.
I AGREE WITH THAT THEORY TOO.
THE BONITO AT THIS TIME OF YEAR HAS NO FAT AT ALL. SO FOR SOME PEOPLE, ENJOYING THE FIRST BONITO IS JUST A SHOW OF BEING A FIRST-TIMER,

18

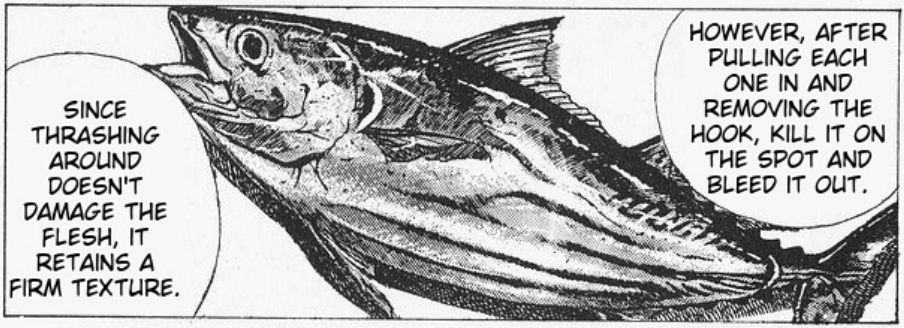

NEXT, FOR THE SAUCE, BEFOREHAND IN A MORTAR, FINELY GRIND GARLIC, CAPERS, SHISO LEAVES, BASIL, THYME, AND MIX THEM INTO A PASTE,
AND JUST BEFORE COOKING, DISSOLVE THIS PASTE WITH FRENCH DRESSING AND SPRINKLE IT OVER THE BONITO.
FIRST, BRUSH SOY SAUCE ON THE SURFACE AND LET THE BONITO FILLET REST FOR A WHILE BEFORE SLICING IT VERY THIN.


THAT'S BECAUSE THE FISHING METHOD IS DIFFERENT.
HOWEVER, SIR!
HOWEVER, THAT DOESN'T EXPLAIN THE GREATNESS OF THIS SKIPJACK.


IT FLAILS VIOLENTLY, SLAMMING ITS BODY AGAINST THE DECK.
A SKIPJACK CAUGHT BY LONGLINE IS SLAMMED ONTO THE DECK,
AND THEN IT ROLLS DOWN UNDER THE DECK.
BUT THINK ABOUT IT.
EARLIER, THAT MAN SAID THAT IF IT'S NOT CAUGHT BY LONGLINE, THE FLESH WILL FALL APART.

19

THAT SAID, IT'S REALLY SIMPLE; TROLLING, LONGLINING, OR WHATEVER WORKS.
THE BEST FISHING METHOD IS THE ONE USED TO CATCH THIS SKIPJACK.
THIS WILL SPOIL THE FLESH.
SO, LONGLINING ISN'T THE BEST METHOD, IS IT?


SINCE THRASHING AROUND DOESN'T DAMAGE THE FLESH, IT RETAINS A FIRM TEXTURE.
HOWEVER, AFTER PULLING EACH ONE IN AND REMOVING THE HOOK, KILL IT ON THE SPOT AND BLEED IT OUT.

IF YOU DISLIKE THE SMELL OF BLOOD, JUST BLEED IT OUT.
JUST BECAUSE THERE'S A SMELL OF BLOOD, COOLING IT WITH ICE IS ACTUALLY JUST A TRICK.

IF THE BONITO IS FRESH, EVEN WHEN SLICED THIS THIN, THE TEXTURE IS STILL GOOD.
THAT MAN SAID THAT SLICING BONITO THINLY RUINS THE TEXTURE, BUT THAT'S ONLY TRUE FOR WEAKENED BONITO.

20

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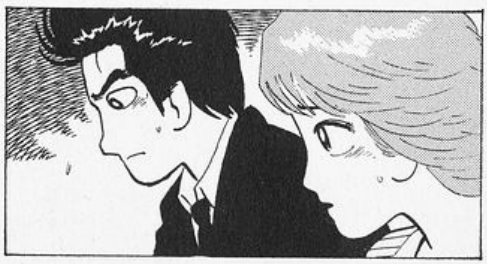
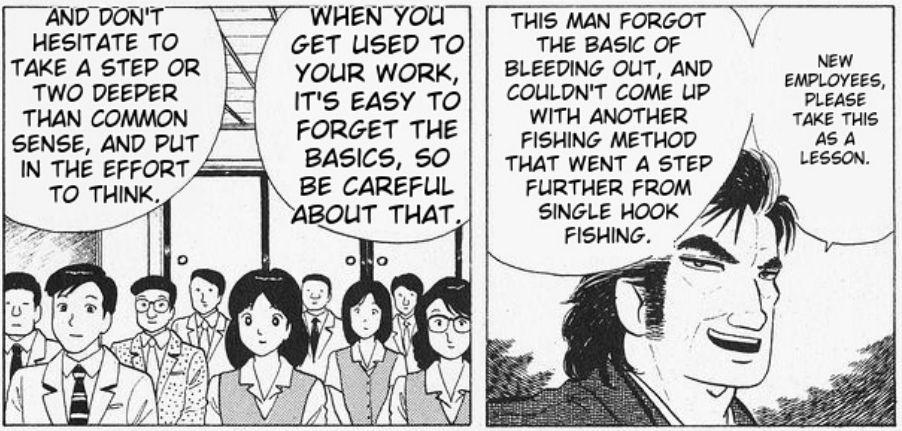
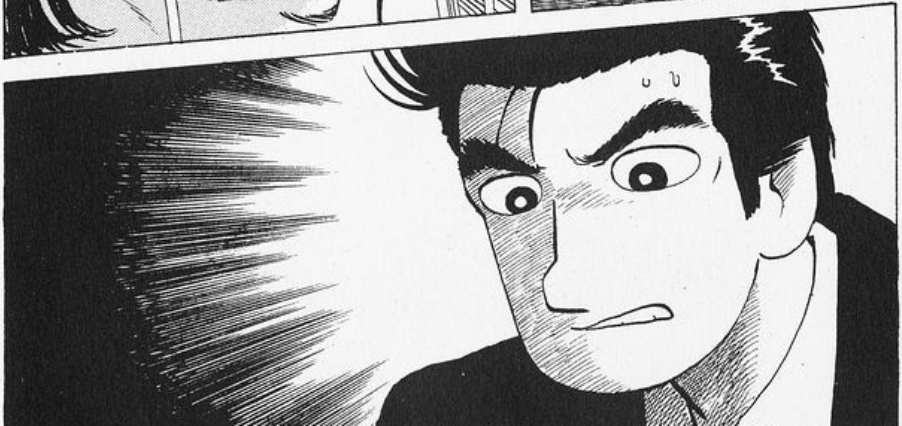
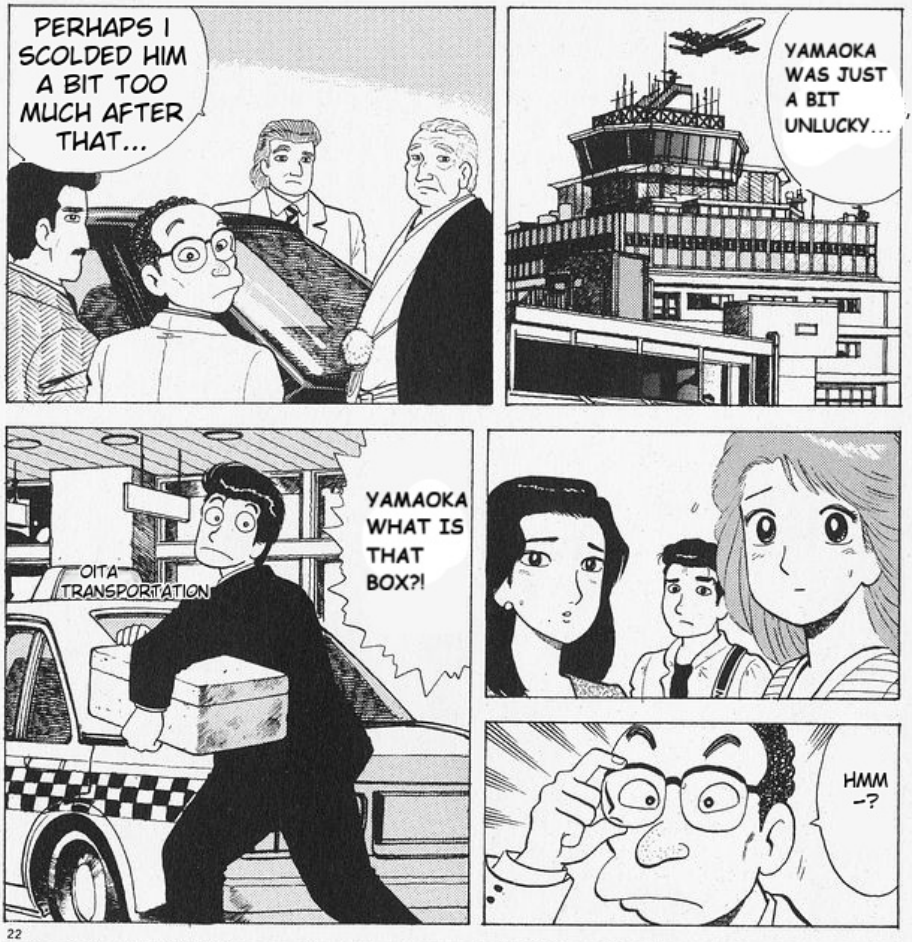


IS THERE ANY DISPUTE IN THE JUDGEMENT?
NO... THE OUTCOME IS CLEARLY A LOSS FOR US.

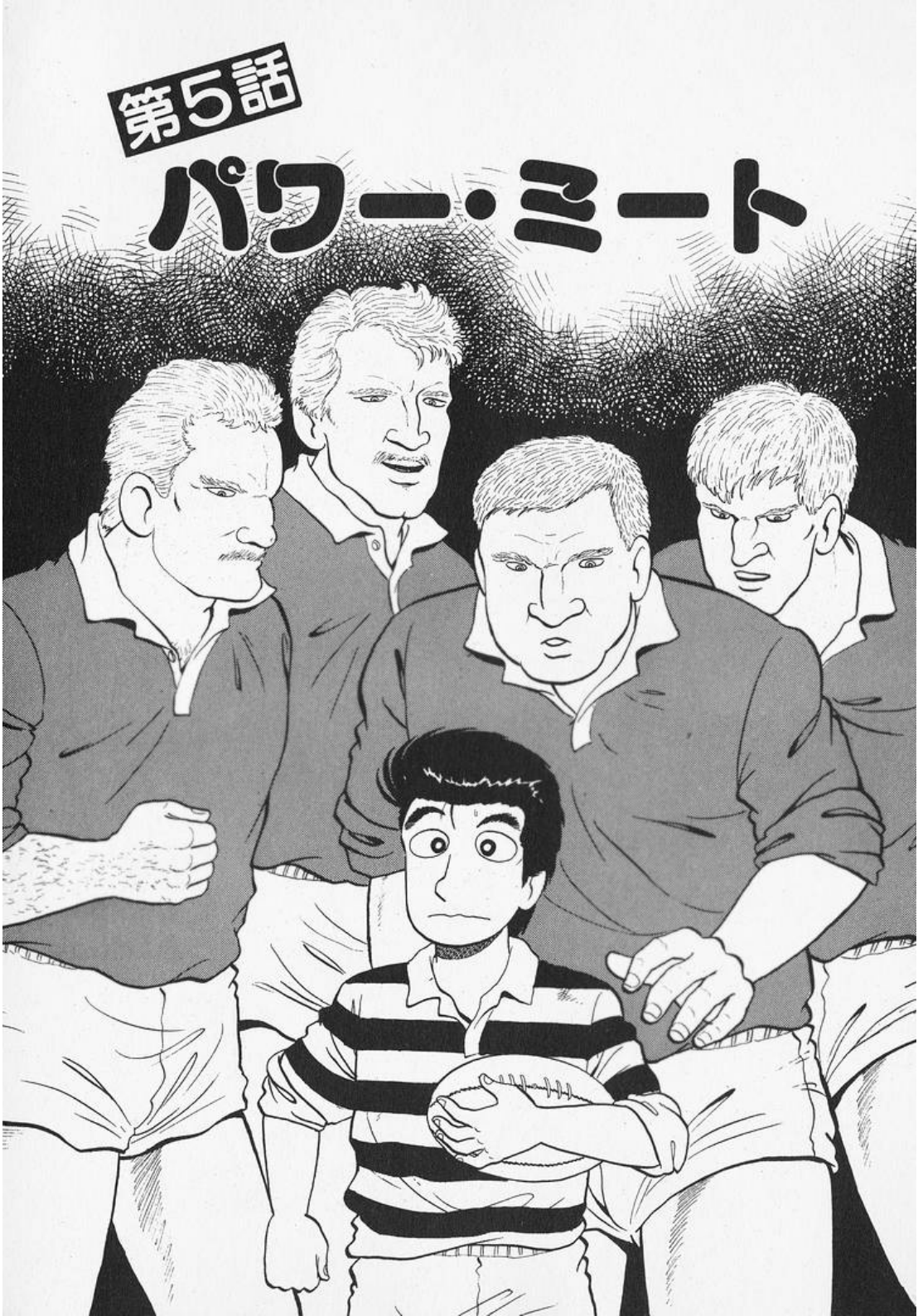

AND DON'T HESITATE TO TAKE A STEP OR TWO DEEPER THAN COMMON SENSE, AND PUT IN THE EFFORT TO THINK.
WHEN YOU GET USED TO YOUR WORK, IT'S EASY TO FORGET THE BASICS, SO BE CAREFUL ABOUT THAT.
THIS MAN FORGOT THE BASIC OF BLEEDING OUT, AND COULDN'T COME UP WITH ANOTHER FISHING METHOD THAT WENT A STEP FURTHER FROM SINGLE HOOK FISHING.
NEW EMPLOYEES, PLEASE TAKE THIS AS A LESSON.

YOU SHOULD BE VERY GRATEFUL TO THIS FOOLISH PERSON IN CHARGE.
WELL, THIS IS THE LESSON THAT THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' OFFERS YOU FROM EXPERIENCE.

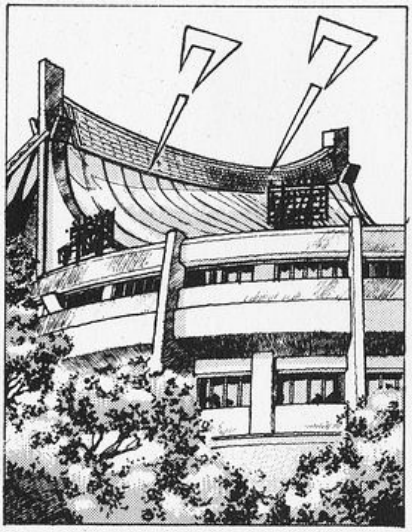



PERHAPS I SCOLDED HIM A BIT TOO MUCH AFTER THAT...
YAMAOKA WAS JUST A BIT UNLUCKY...
OITA TRANSPORTATION
YAMAOKA WHAT IS THAT BOX?!
HMM -?
22
I'M THE ONE THAT MADE IT!!!
YOU CAN'T JUST STEAL THE REST OF THE FOOD!!!!

第5話
パワー・ミート

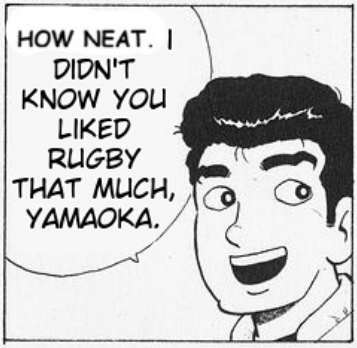


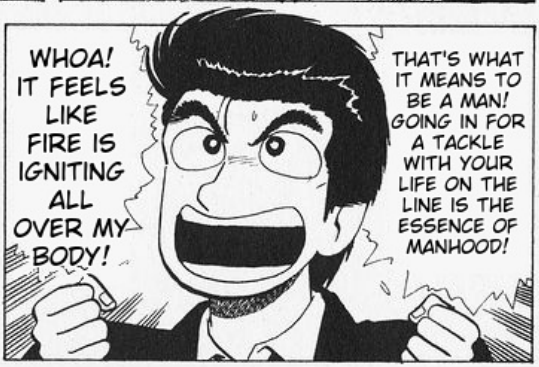
THE MATCH OF THE NEWLY FORMED JAPAN RUGBY TEAM AGAINST SCOTLAND WAS
UNBELIEVABLE! THE ENTIRE JAPAN TEAM HELD ON TO WIN BY A MARGIN OF 28 TO 24.



WE WERE ABLE TO ACHIEVE OUR FIRST VICTORY AGAINST THE RUGBY POWERHOUSES OF SCOTLAND, ENGLAND, FRANCE, AUSTRALIA, AND NEW ZEALAND.

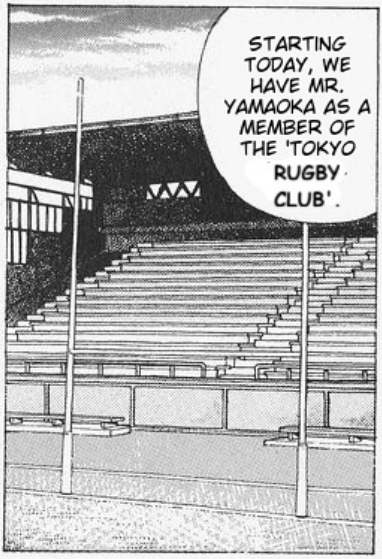
2


HOW NEAT. I DIDN'T KNOW YOU LIKED RUGBY THAT MUCH, YAMAOKA.

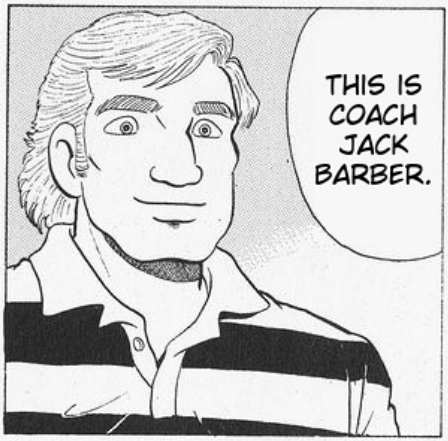

WHOA! IT FEELS LIKE FIRE IS IGNITING ALL OVER MY BODY!
THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MAN! GOING IN FOR A TACKLE WITH YOUR LIFE ON THE LINE IS THE ESSENCE OF MANHOOD!

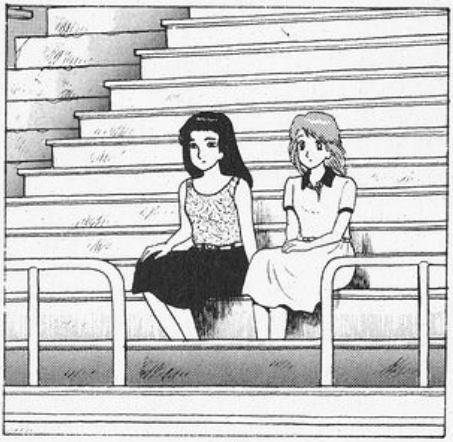
DELICIOUSNESS 23

NICE TO MEET YOU!


STARTING TODAY, WE HAVE MR. YAMAOKA AS A MEMBER OF THE 'TOKYO RUGBY CLUB'.

NICE TO MEET YOU!


THIS IS COACH JACK BARBER.



4

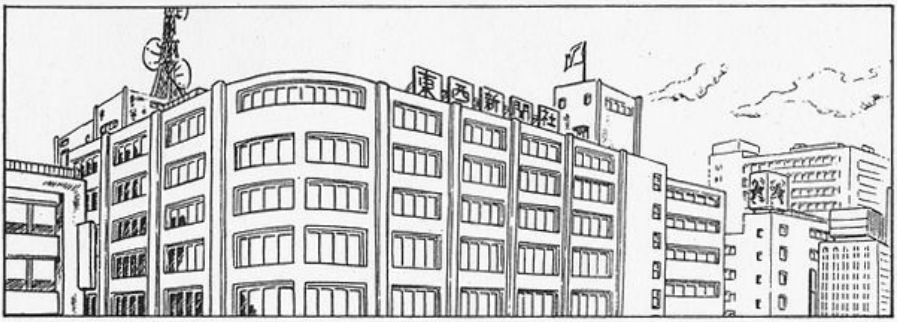
LET'S DO OUR BEST!
WOW! HE'S AN ULTRA TOP-NOTCH COACH!

HE'S CURRENTLY WORKING AT THE TOKYO BRANCH OF AN AUSTRALIAN BANK.
JACK WAS A MEMBER OF THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL TEAM.

DELICIOUSNESS 23

AWESOME!
IN TWO WEEKS, WE HAVE A MATCH AGAINST AN AUSTRALIAN TEAM LIVING IN JAPAN.
CHEERS!
BEER HALL
OH, NO! THAT MEANS WE WON'T BE ABLE TO COMPETE AT ALL!
THERE ARE A COUPLE OF TOP-NOTCH BLOKES ON THE TEAM WHO USED TO PLAY ON THE NATIONAL TEAM LIKE I DID.
AUSTRALIA IS THE HOME OF RUGBY, RIGHT?!
6
OH MY.
YOU'RE ONLY A SUB, MATE.
LET'S DO THIS!
HA HA HA, I'M SO EXCITED!

DELICIOUSNESS 23



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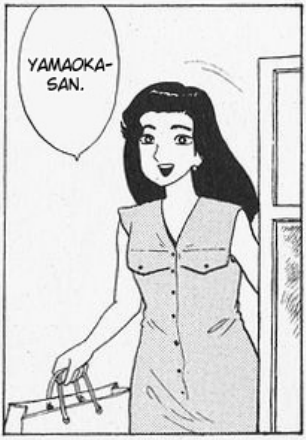
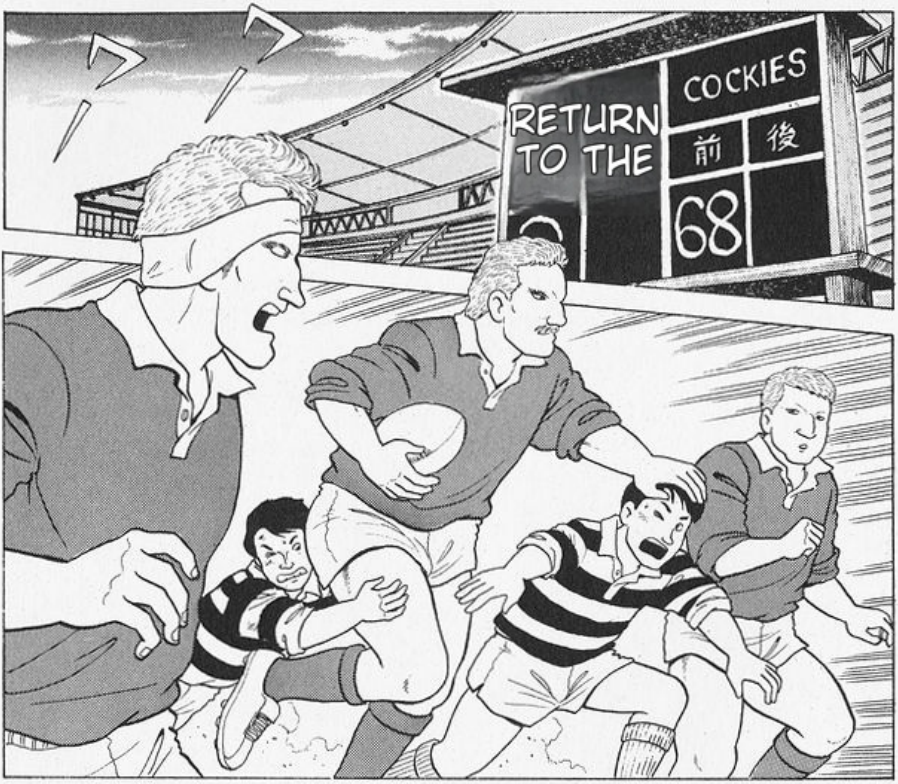


THANKS, THIS IS GREAT.
IT LOOKS GREAT ON YOU.
OH, THAT'S PERFECT.
I'M SO HAPPY!
HMM...
HEY, SOUNDS GOOD. HOW ABOUT I TREAT YOU TO SOME SWEET RED BEAN SOUP AT 'UMEZAWA' AS A THANK YOU?
MR. YAMAOKA, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO FOR TEA?
8
IT'S LIKE SHE'S TACKLED YOU AND STOLEN THE BALL!
THAT'S NOT OKAY!
NO, UM, I...
I GOT OUTPACED, DIDN'T I...


RETURN TO THE
COCKIES
前
後
68

9

IT'S A DIFFERENCE GREATER THAN THAT OF AN ADULT AND A CHILD!!
OH... IT'S COMPLETELY USELESS, OUR BODY TYPES ARE TOO DIFFERENT.

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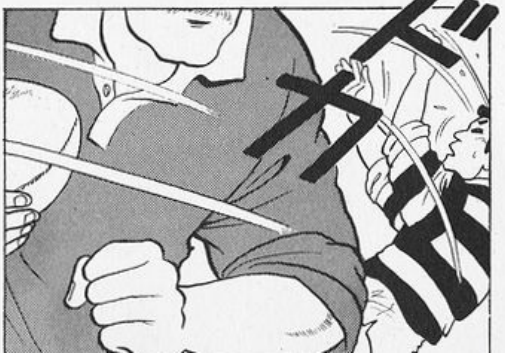
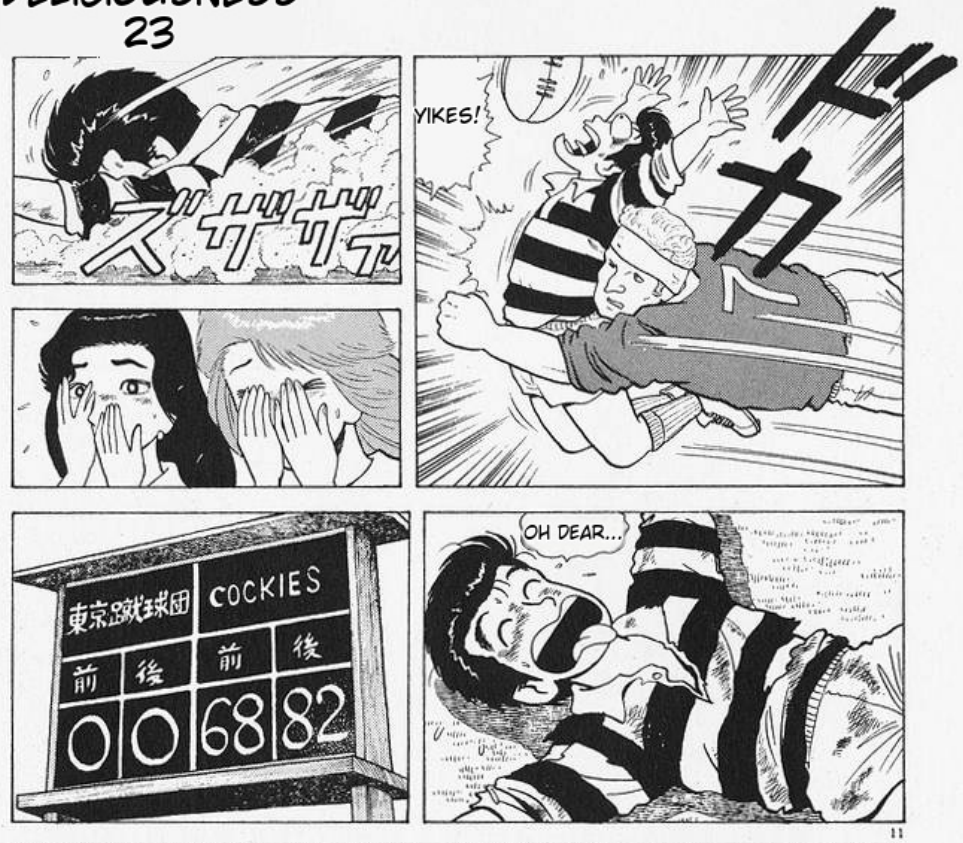
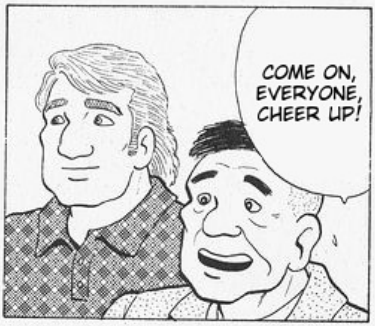

ガシ

DAMMIT! NOT EVEN A SINGLE POINT?!
イラ イラ
ARE YOU OKAY?!
NO, MY LEG IS...
ALRIGHT, MATE, BLOODY GET IN THERE!
YAY——!
10
YAMAOKA, DO YOUR BEST!
うおおお

DELICIOUSNESS 23



THE DIFFERENCE IN PHYSIQUE IS JUST TOO MUCH...
MAN, WE SUCKED.


COME ON, EVERYONE, CHEER UP!

WE'RE EATING DIFFERENT THINGS, YOU KNOW...
ALL THE GUYS LOOK UP TO YOU, AND YOU'RE ALL MUSCLE...

BUT THE ALL JAPAN TEAM DEFEATED SCOTLAND, WHICH IS WAY BIGGER THAN US, RIGHT?!

BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE THE SKILLS LIKE THE ALL JAPAN TEAM.

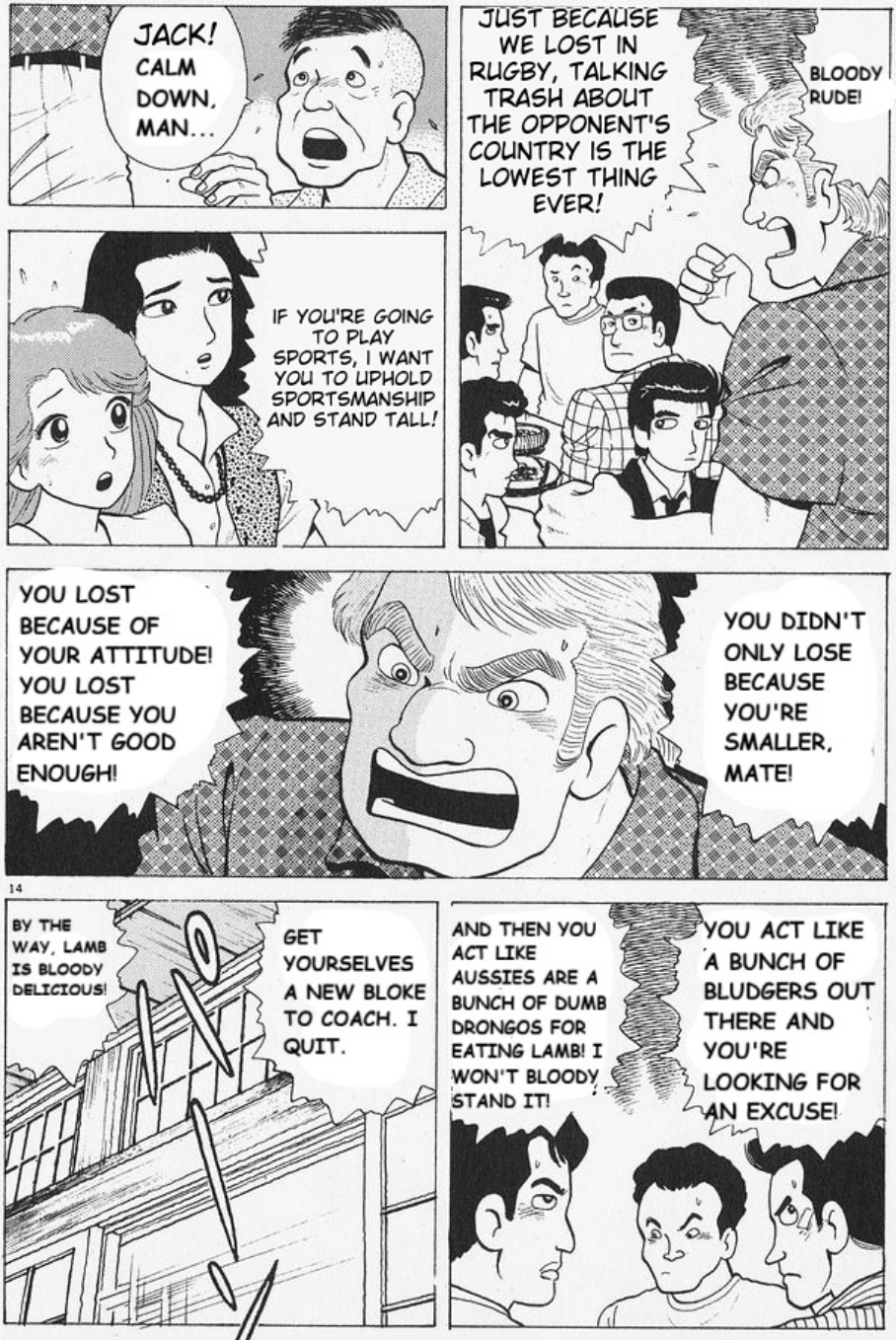
12

WE EAT A LOT OF LAMB MEAT TOO.
YEAH, I EAT BEEF TOO, BUT,

JACK, YOU EAT A LOT OF MEAT IN AUSTRALIA, RIGHT?

I GUESS YOU REALLY DO EAT A LOT OF BEEF.

DELICIOUSNESS 23



*TL NOTE: MY GIRLFRIEND IS AUSTRALIAN. SHE HELPED WITH SOME OF THE FLAVOR SINCE THE MACHINE USED VERY MECHANICAL PHRASING IN THE TL.

……

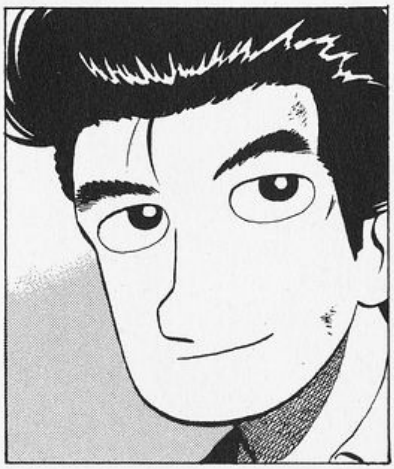
JACK...
ガラ

WE DID INSULT HIS COUNTRY.
IT'S ONLY NATURAL FOR JACK TO BE ANGRY.

I'VE EATEN IT MANY TIMES!
I KNOW!

THE PROBLEM IS THAT JAPANESE PEOPLE KNOW TOO LITTLE ABOUT LAMB.
OH DEAR...

15



OH REALLY?
CAN YOU LEAVE THE REST TO ME? I HAVE AN IDEA.

LE CIGALE

I THINK I SHOULD HAVE JACK TRY THE LAMB FIRST TO SEE IF WE CAN MAKE UP.
THE OTHER DAY, THE REASON THE TEAM BECAME AWKWARD WAS BECAUSE OF WHETHER LAMB WAS DELICIOUS OR NOT.

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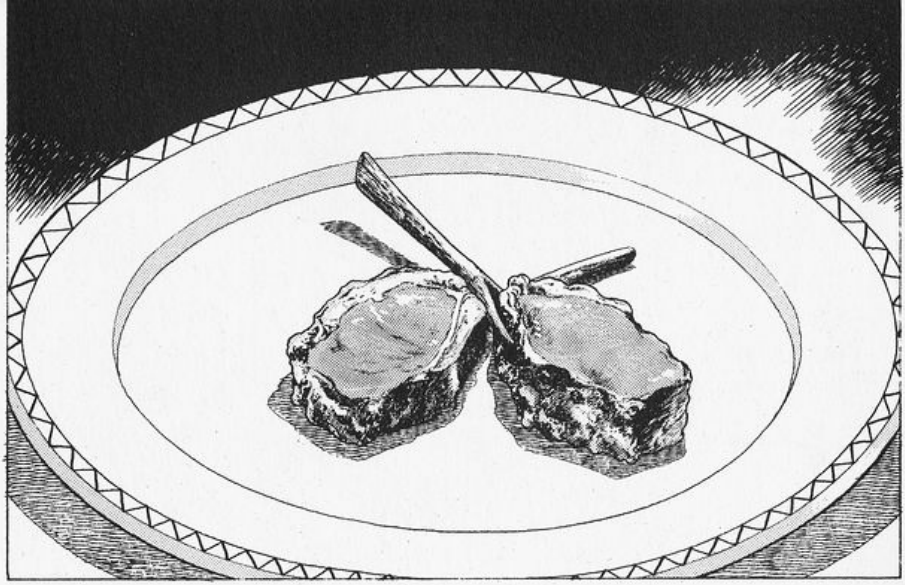
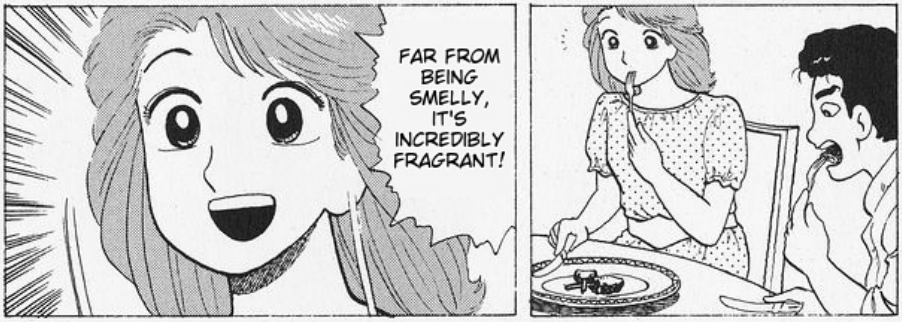
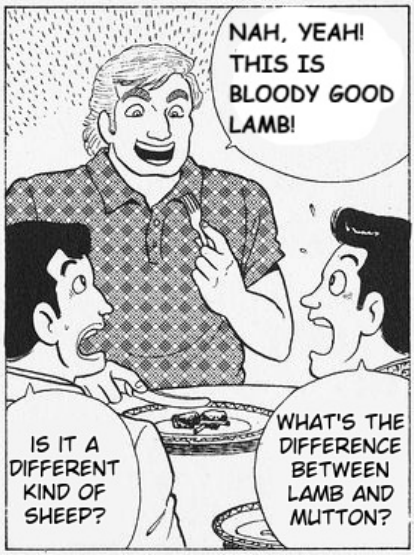
DELICIOUSNESS 23

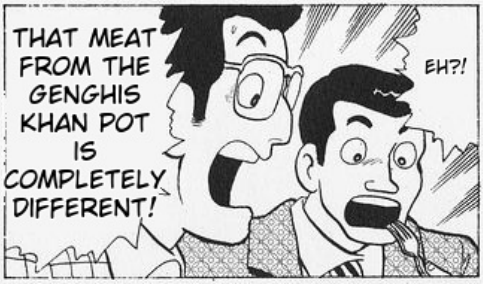



FAR FROM BEING SMELLY, IT'S INCREDIBLY FRAGRANT!

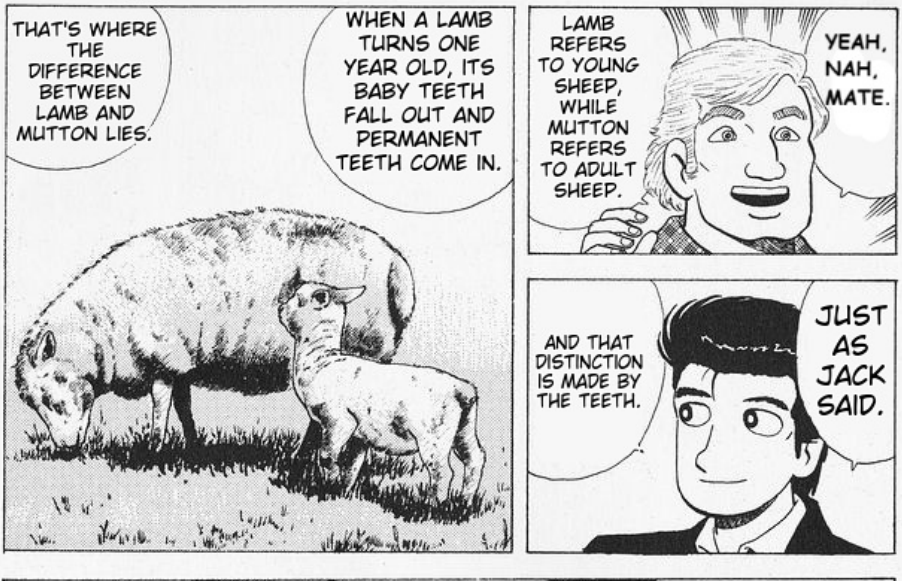
18

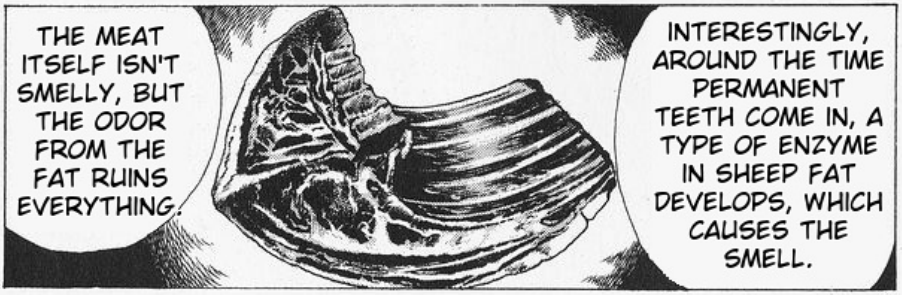

NAH, YEAH! THIS IS BLOODY GOOD LAMB!
IS IT A DIFFERENT KIND OF SHEEP?
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LAMB AND MUTTON?

THE MEAT IS TENDER, AND DELICIOUS JUICES ARE BURSTING OUT!


THAT MEAT FROM THE GENGHIS KHAN POT IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT!
EH?!

DELICIOUSNESS 23





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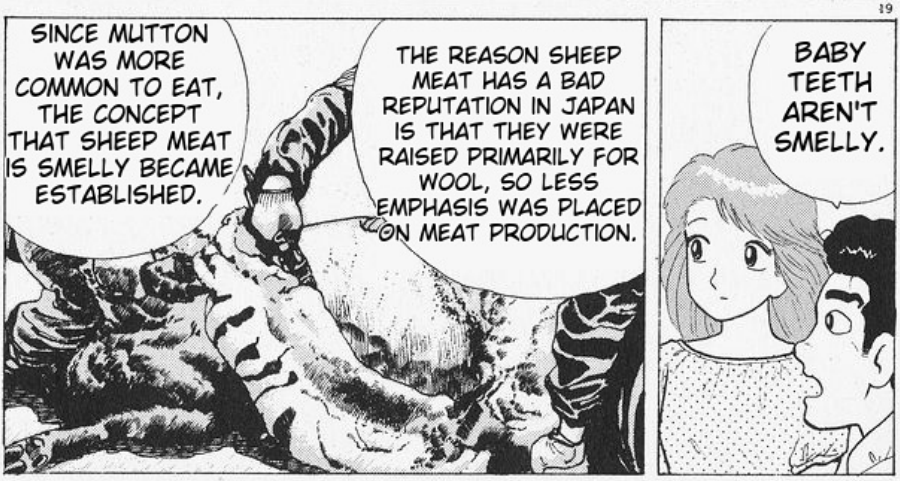
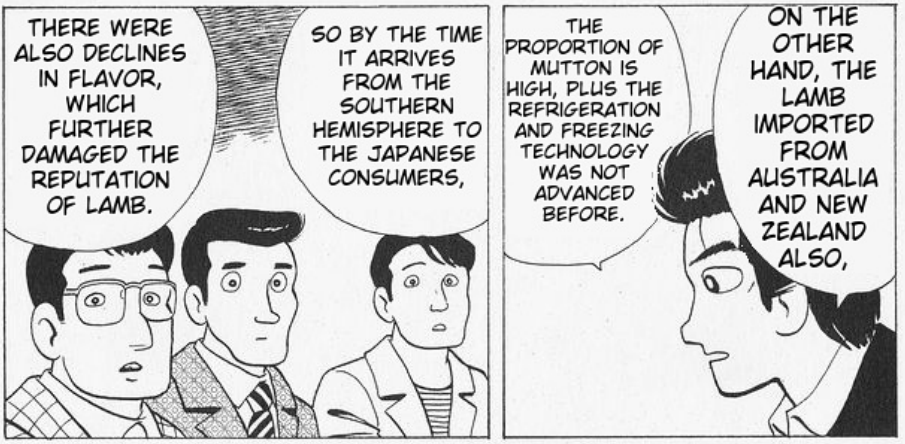
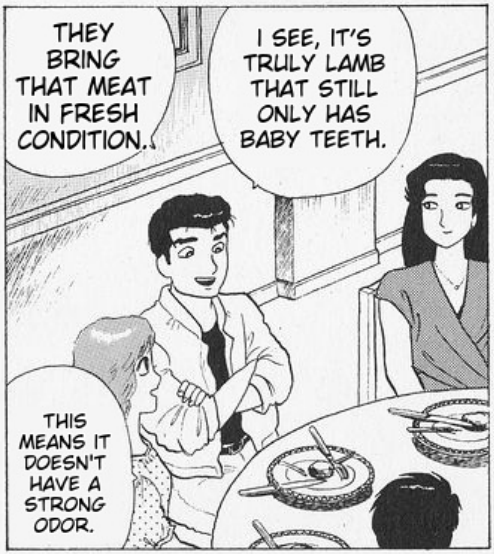



THERE WERE ALSO DECLINES IN FLAVOR, WHICH FURTHER DAMAGED THE REPUTATION OF LAMB.
SO BY THE TIME IT ARRIVES FROM THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE TO THE JAPANESE CONSUMERS,
THE PROPORTION OF MUTTON IS HIGH, PLUS THE REFRIGERATION AND FREEZING TECHNOLOGY WAS NOT ADVANCED BEFORE.
ON THE OTHER HAND, THE LAMB IMPORTED FROM AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND ALSO,

THE SITUATION HAS CHANGED WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SYSTEM TO IMPORT CHILLED MEAT KEPT AT LOW TEMPERATURES OF 1°C OR 2°C.
HOWEVER, RECENTLY, THE MEAT PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY IN AUSTRALIA HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT ADVANCEMENTS, AND

20

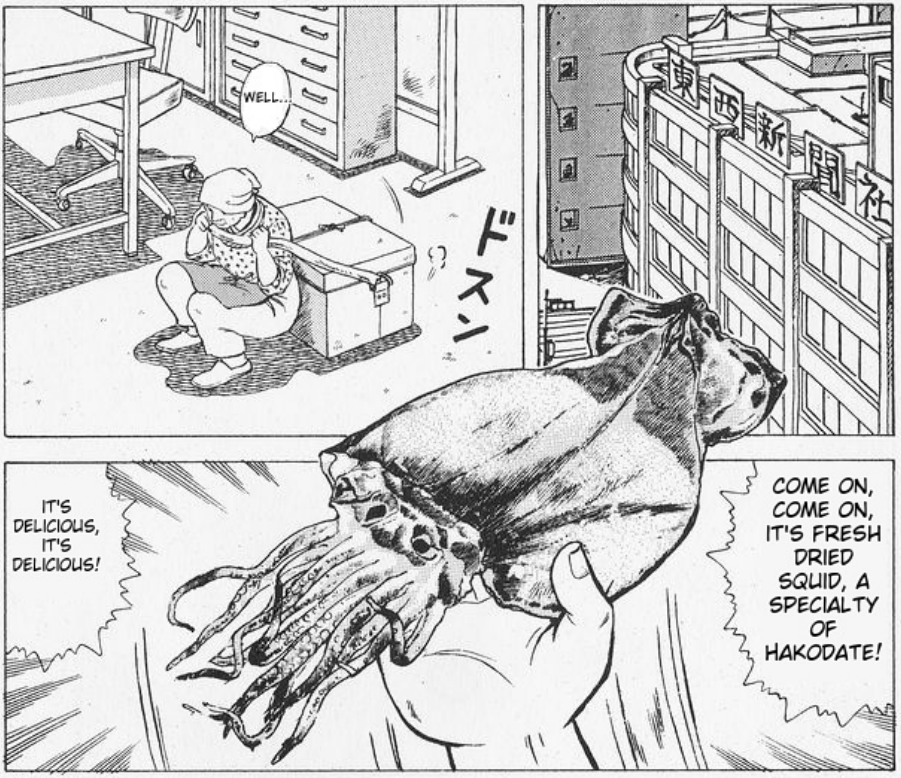

THEY BRING THAT MEAT IN FRESH CONDITION.
I SEE, IT'S TRULY LAMB THAT STILL ONLY HAS BABY TEETH.
THIS MEANS IT DOESN'T HAVE A STRONG ODOR.

IT IS CHILLED MEAT BROUGHT FROM AUSTRALIA.
WHAT YOU JUST TASTED IS LAMB BETWEEN FIVE TO SIX MONTHS OLD, WELL BEFORE THE BABY TEETH FALL OUT.

DELICIOUSNESS 23

YOU SAVED ME.
I FIXED THE RIP YOU HAD IN YOUR JERSEY...
OH, THIS IS HELPFUL!
東西新聞社
I JUST REMEMBERED I HAVE SOMETHING URGENT TO DO...
クルリ
WOW!
HEY, FUTAKI.
22
THIS TIME KURITA GOT AHEAD OF HER.
FUTAKI HAD A NEW JERSEY, YOU KNOW.

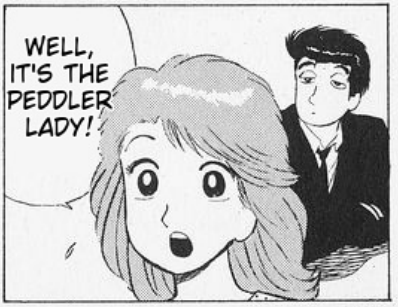
第6話
ばあちゃんの賭け


WELL...
ドスン
東西新聞社
IT'S DELICIOUS, IT'S DELICIOUS!
COME ON, COME ON, IT'S FRESH DRIED SQUID, A SPECIALTY OF HAKODATE!

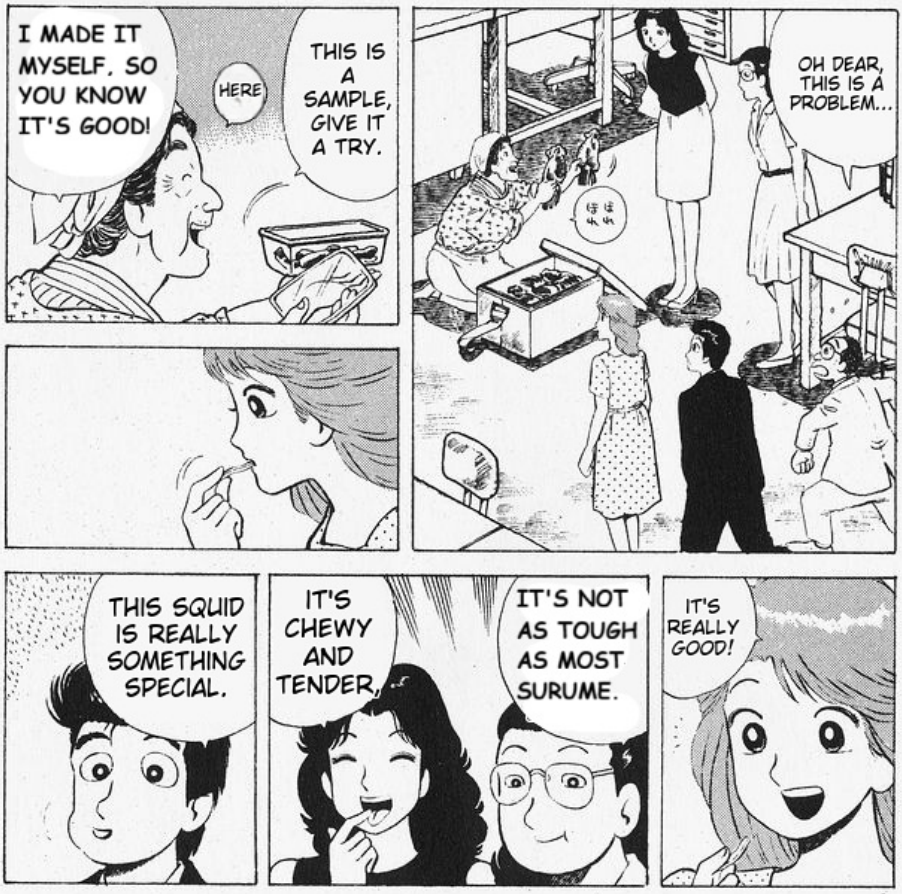
2

IT'S BASIC-ALLY A STEAL!
I'D LIKE TO SAY IT'S FIFTEEN HUNDRED YEN A PIECE, BUT FINE, I'LL GIVE YOU A BIG DISCOUNT: A THOUSAND YEN EACH!

W-WHAT'S GOING ON?!

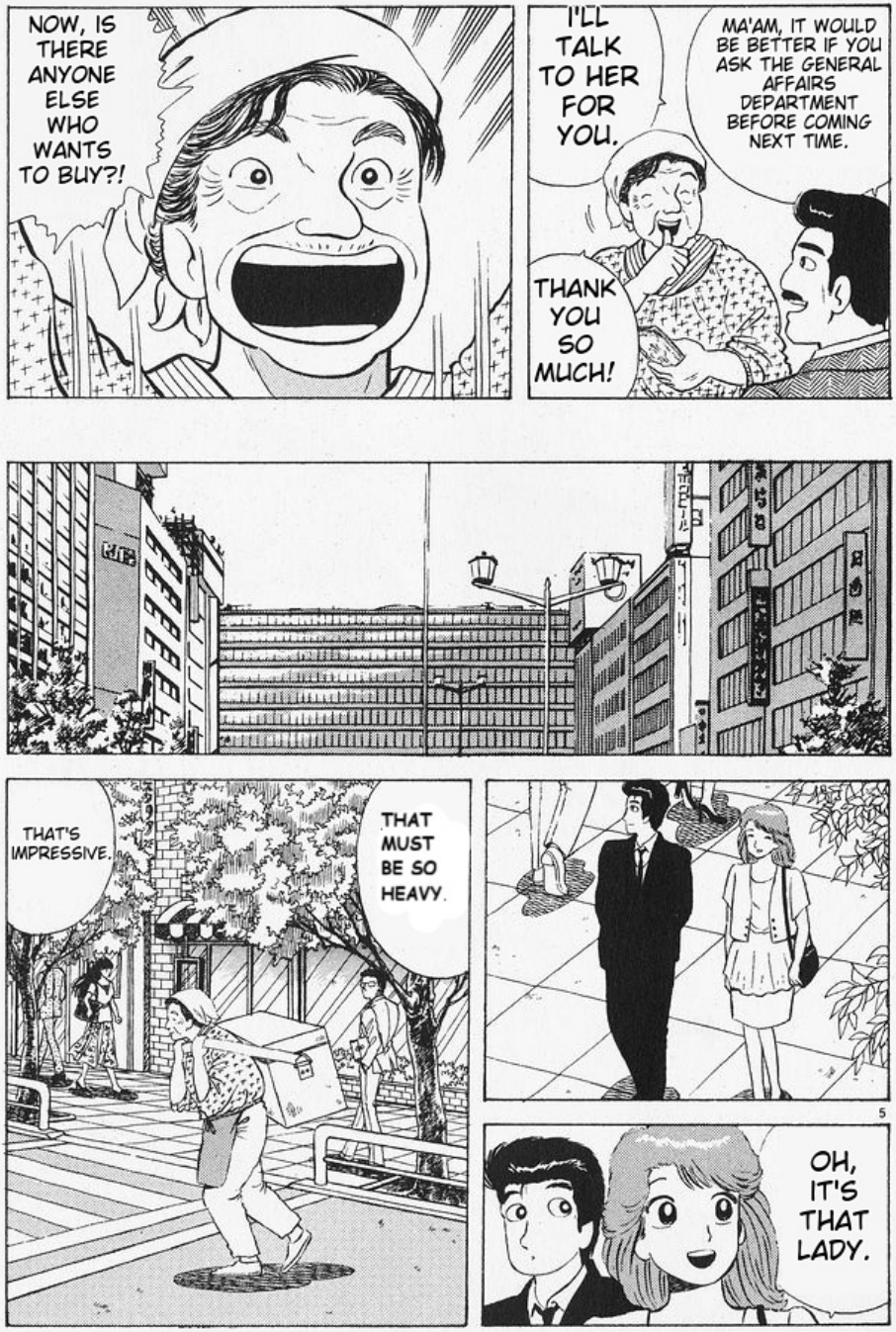

WELL, IT'S THE PEDDLER LADY!

DELICIOUS!

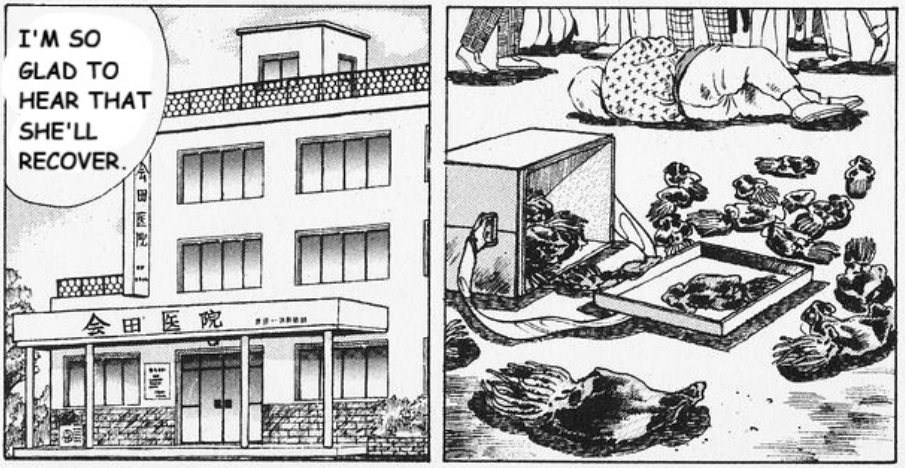

I MADE IT MYSELF, SO YOU KNOW IT'S GOOD!
HERE
THIS IS A SAMPLE, GIVE IT A TRY.
OH DEAR, THIS IS A PROBLEM...
ぼそ
THIS SQUID IS REALLY SOMETHING SPECIAL.
IT'S CHEWY AND TENDER,
IT'S NOT AS TOUGH AS MOST SURUME.
IT'S REALLY GOOD!
3
ENOUGH OF THIS!
COME NOW, YOU TWO AS WELL! TRY THE DELICIOUS DRIED SQUID!
PEOPLE WHO WON'T BUY IT MUST HAVE A TWISTED MINDSET!

PLEASE DON'T INTERFERE WITH MY BUSINESS!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT? I'M NOT JUST HERE FOR FUN FROM HAKODATE!
LADY, THIS IS A PRIVATE BUSINESS! YOU CAN'T JUST BARGE IN HERE TO SELL STUFF!
ENOUGH ALREADY! IF YOU DON'T LEAVE, I'LL CALL THE POLICE!
THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!
SINCE YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE, I'LL BUY THREE.
HOLD ON...
4
YOU REALLY KNOW THE VALUE OF GOOD FOOD!
I KNEW THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE ULTIMATE MENU WOULD BUY MY SQUID!
I'LL TAKE TWO.
GIVE ME THREE.
I'LL TAKE ONE TOO.

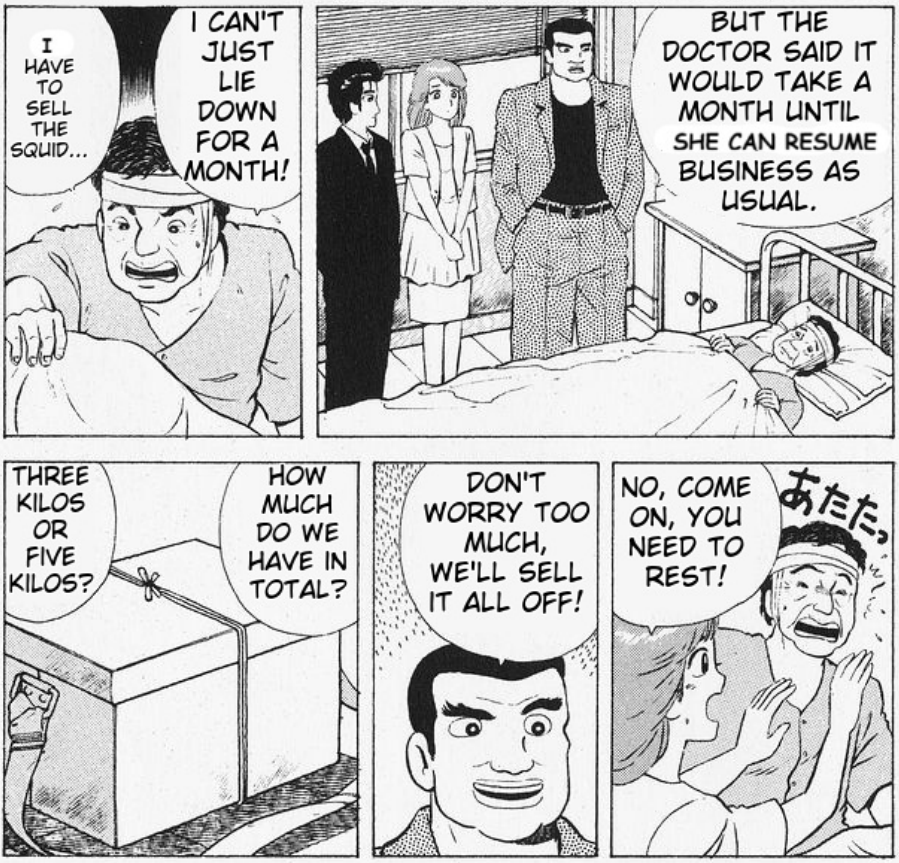
DELICIOUS!


NOW, IS THERE ANYONE ELSE WHO WANTS TO BUY?!
I'LL TALK TO HER FOR YOU.
MA'AM, IT WOULD BE BETTER IF YOU ASK THE GENERAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT BEFORE COMING NEXT TIME.
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
THAT'S IMPRESSIVE.
THAT MUST BE SO HEAVY.
5
OH, IT'S THAT LADY.

6



DELICIOUS!


I HAVE TO SELL THE SQUID...
I CAN'T JUST LIE DOWN FOR A MONTH!
BUT THE DOCTOR SAID IT WOULD TAKE A MONTH UNTIL SHE CAN RESUME BUSINESS AS USUAL.
THREE KILOS OR FIVE KILOS?
HOW MUCH DO WE HAVE IN TOTAL?
DON'T WORRY TOO MUCH, WE'LL SELL IT ALL OFF!
NO, COME ON, YOU NEED TO REST!
あたた。
7
WHY DO WE HAVE TO SELL SO MUCH?!
IT'S NOT JUST WHAT'S IN THE BASKET!
THREE HUNDRED KILOS.
THREE HUNDRED KILOS?!
W-WHAT?!

.....

I NEED THE MONEY!
THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!

PLEASE TELL THESE TWO ABOUT IT.
WELL, SHE LIVES NEARBY, SO I KNOW A LOT ABOUT HER SITUATION.

THIS IS THE TRUCK DRIVER THAT GAVE HER A LIFT INTO TOKYO...
COFFEE

8

SO, SHE TOOK THEIR CHILD IN AND RAISED HER ALL BY HERSELF.
ABOUT 15 YEARS AGO, HER SON AND HIS WIFE DIED IN A FISHING ACCIDENT...

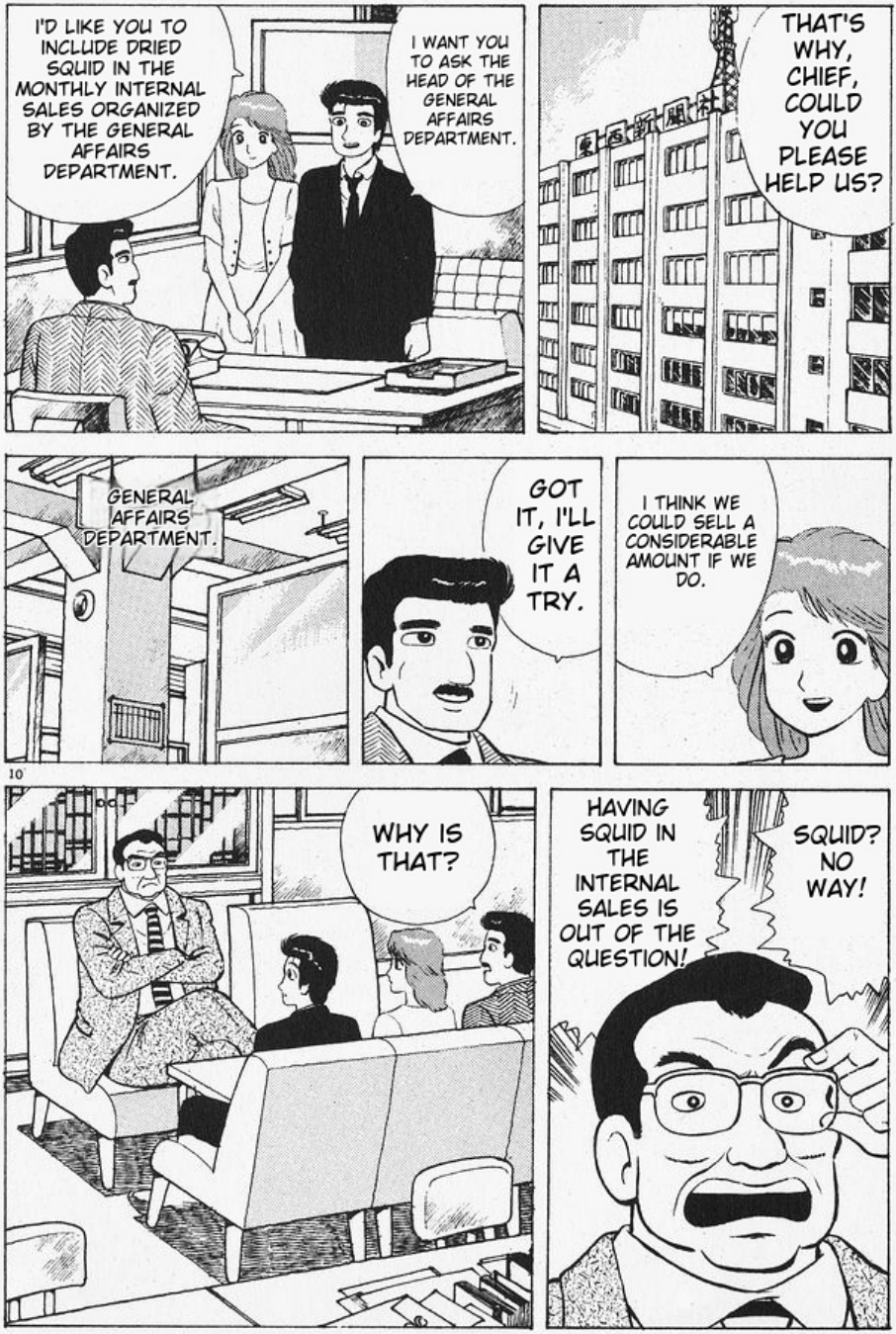
WELL, SHE NEEDS MONEY FOR HER GRAND-DAUGHTER.

WHY?

DELICIOUS!

9

121 *TL NOTE: I'M SURE THERE'S A CULTURAL DIFFERENCE AT PLAY HERE OR SOMETHING BECAUSE MY INITIAL THOUGHT IS WHY DOESN'T THE GRANDDAUGHTER OR THE GUY SHE'S MARRYING GET OFF THEIR LAZY ASSES AND GET JOBS INSTEAD OF RELYING ON THE OLD LADY?


I'D LIKE YOU TO INCLUDE DRIED SQUID IN THE MONTHLY INTERNAL SALES ORGANIZED BY THE GENERAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT.
I WANT YOU TO ASK THE HEAD OF THE GENERAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT.
THAT'S WHY, CHIEF, COULD YOU PLEASE HELP US?
GENERAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT.
GOT IT, I'LL GIVE IT A TRY.
I THINK WE COULD SELL A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT IF WE DO.
10
WHY IS THAT?
HAVING SQUID IN THE INTERNAL SALES IS OUT OF THE QUESTION!
SQUID? NO WAY!

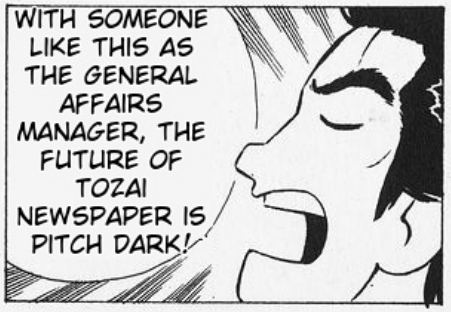
DELICIOUS!

I DON'T THINK YOUR PREFERENCES SHOULD SPEAK FOR THE WHOLE DEPARTMENT.
N-NO WAY...
I ABSOLUTELY HATE SQUID.
FIRST OF ALL, THAT SHAPE! IT HAS TEN LEGS, AND THOSE LEGS ARE COVERED IN BUMPS!
UGH! JUST THINKING ABOUT IT GIVES ME GOOSEBUMPS ALL OVER!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT! THIS IS A LEGITIMATE EXERCISE OF THE DEPARTMENT HEAD'S AUTHORITY!
MR. IIKURA, WHY DO YOU HATE SQUID SO MUCH?
AH, I SEE... I UNDERSTAND NOW.
AND THE SMELL! IT'S SO BAD IT MAKES MY NOSE HAIRS CURL!
IT JUST STICKS TO YOUR TEETH AND IS DISGUSTING!
YOU FOOL! HOW COULD I EAT SQUID SASHIMI!
WELL, IF YOU TURN IT INTO SASHIMI, YOU WON'T SEE THE SHAPE...

HAVEN'T YOU BEEN LISTENING?! ALL SQUID IS STRANGE!!!
MR. IIKURA JUST HAS A PREJUDICE BECAUSE HE HAS ONLY EATEN STRANGE SQUID.

なっ
THIS IS JUST LIKE SOMEONE FROM ANOTHER COMPANY THINKING THAT ALL EMPLOYEES OF TOZAI NEWSPAPER ARE IDIOTS BECAUSE THEY ONLY SEE MR. IIKURA.
I'M AMAZED.

YAMAOKA! APOLOGIZE TO MR. IIKURA!


WITH SOMEONE LIKE THIS AS THE GENERAL AFFAIRS MANAGER, THE FUTURE OF TOZAI NEWSPAPER IS PITCH DARK!

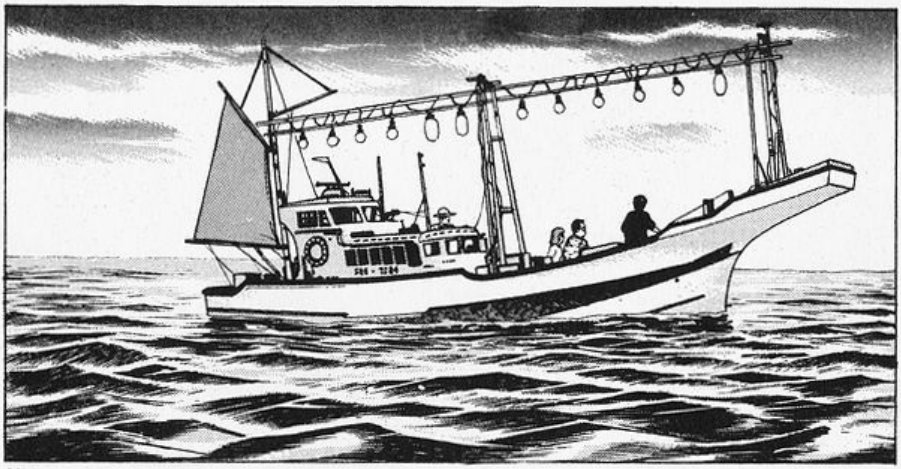
YOU! THE LAZIEST EMPLOYEE IN OUR COMPANY'S HISTORY, WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY TO ME?
WHAT DID YOU SAY!
カ!!

DELICIOUS!

ALRIGHT... IF YOU'RE SAYING THAT, I CAN'T JUST LET IT SLIDE!
YAMAOKA-SAN, THAT'S GOING TOO FAR!
I'LL WRITE MY RESIGNATION.
BUT WHAT IF IT'S BAD?!
LET ME TRY THAT DELICIOUS SQUID YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
GOOD, WELL SAID.

WHY IS IT ALWAYS LIKE THIS...
OH... HERE WE GO AGAIN...
THIS WILL FINALLY GET RID OF YOU, THE LAZY EMPLOYEE!
HEH.

CHIBA, BOSO!



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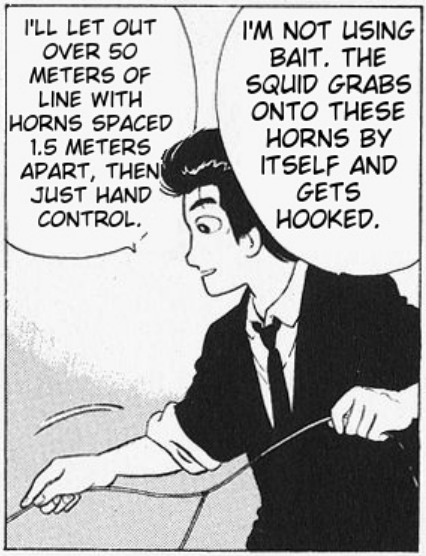
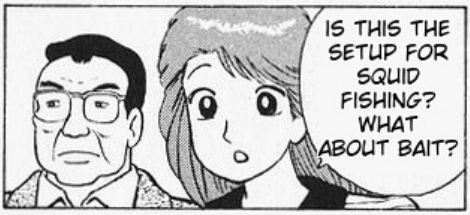
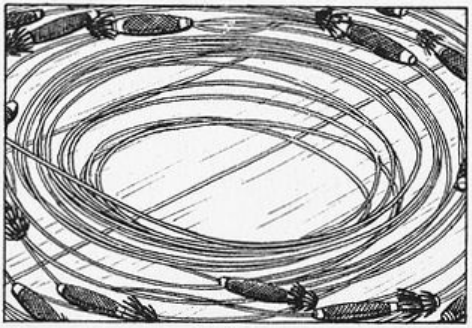
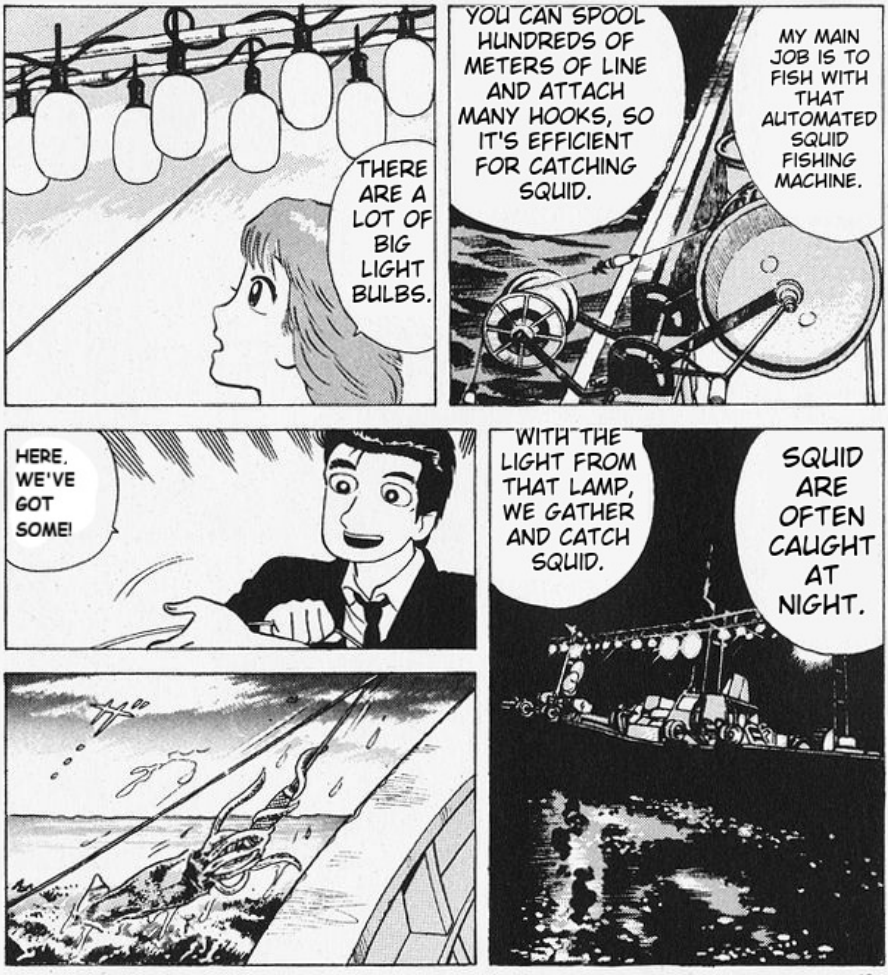
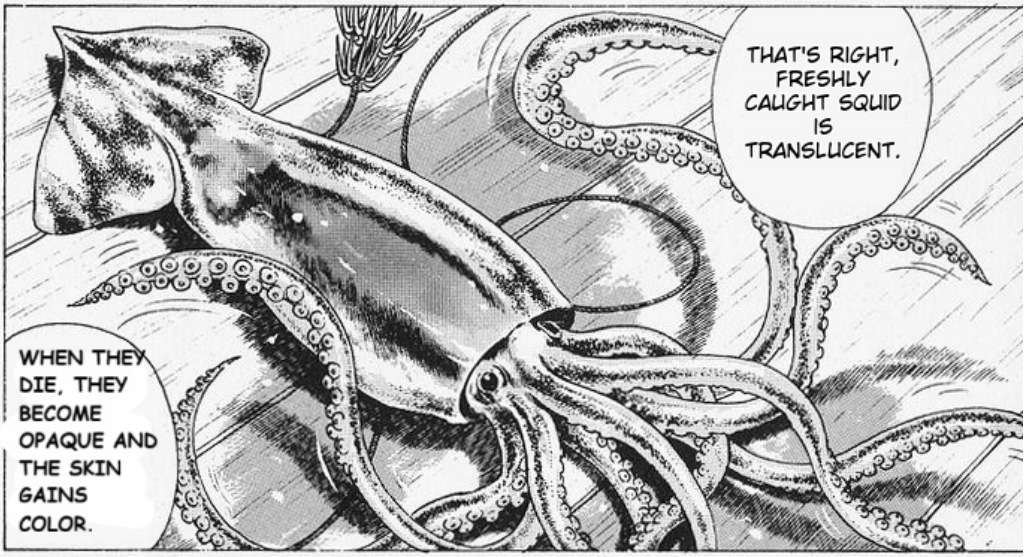

I'LL LET OUT OVER 50 METERS OF LINE WITH HORNS SPACED 1.5 METERS APART, THEN JUST HAND CONTROL.
I'M NOT USING BAIT. THE SQUID GRABS ONTO THESE HORNS BY ITSELF AND GETS HOOKED.

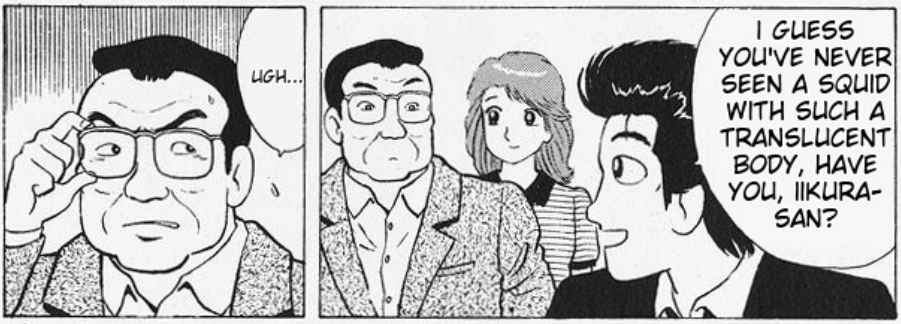

IS THIS THE SETUP FOR SQUID FISHING? WHAT ABOUT BAIT?



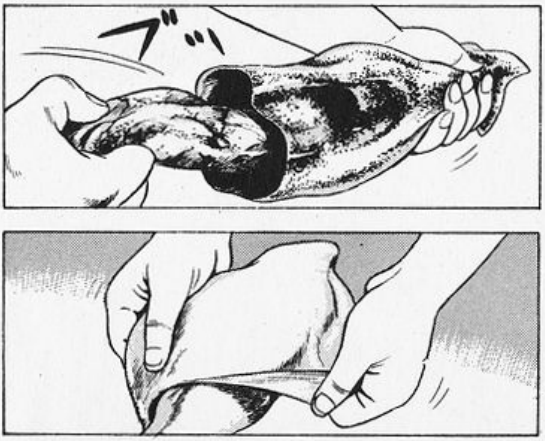
DELICIOUS!


THERE ARE A LOT OF BIG LIGHT BULBS.
YOU CAN SPOOL HUNDREDS OF METERS OF LINE AND ATTACH MANY HOOKS, SO IT'S EFFICIENT FOR CATCHING SQUID.
MY MAIN JOB IS TO FISH WITH THAT AUTOMATED SQUID FISHING MACHINE.
HERE. WE'VE GOT SOME!
WITH THE LIGHT FROM THAT LAMP, WE GATHER AND CATCH SQUID.
SQUID ARE OFTEN CAUGHT AT NIGHT.
15
OH! YOU CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH TO THE INSIDE!
WOW, IT'S BEAUTIFUL!


THAT'S RIGHT, FRESHLY CAUGHT SQUID IS TRANSLUCENT.
WHEN THEY DIE, THEY BECOME OPAQUE AND THE SKIN GAINS COLOR.

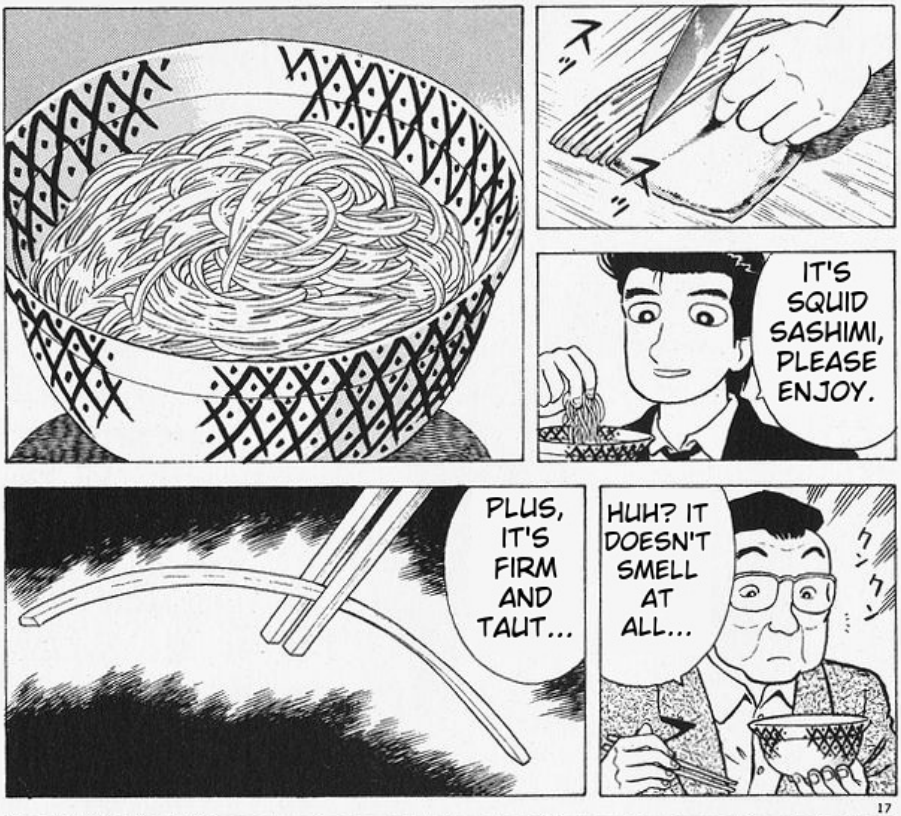

UGH...
I GUESS YOU'VE NEVER SEEN A SQUID WITH SUCH A TRANSLUCENT BODY, HAVE YOU, IIKURA-SAN?

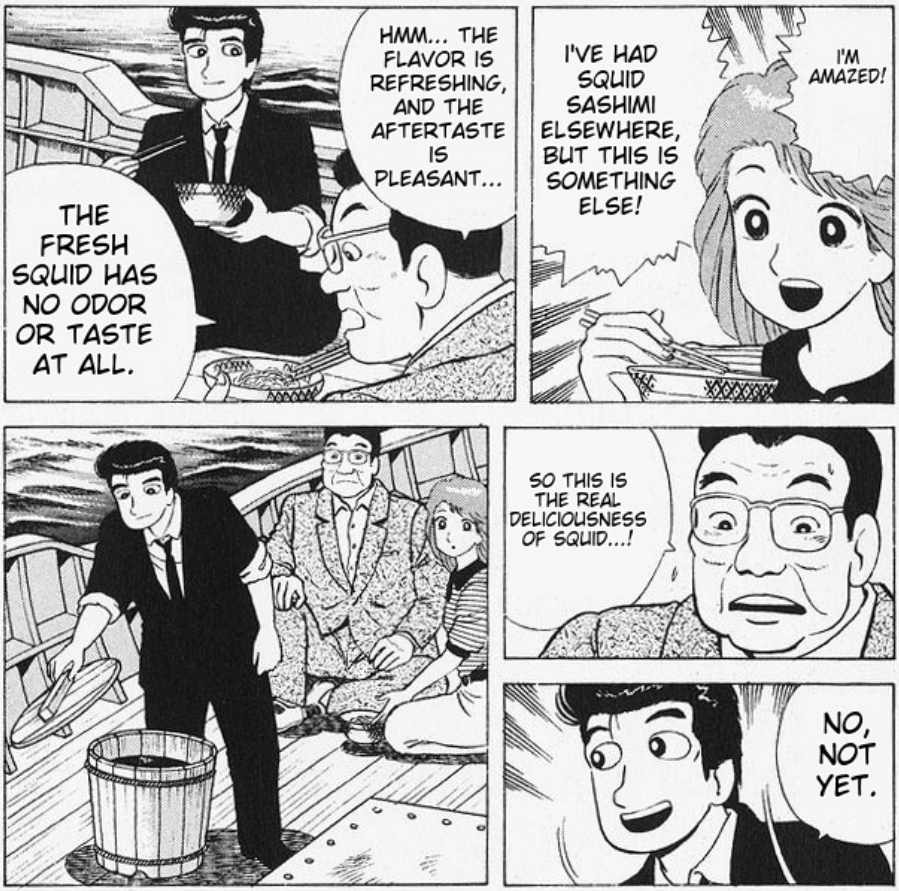
16



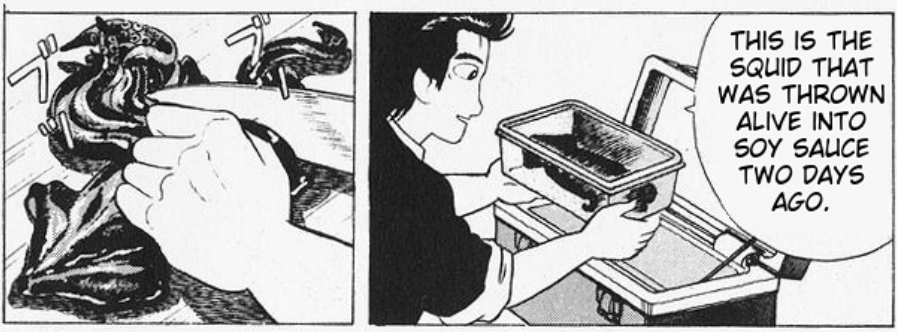
ALRIGHT, LET'S GET COOKING.

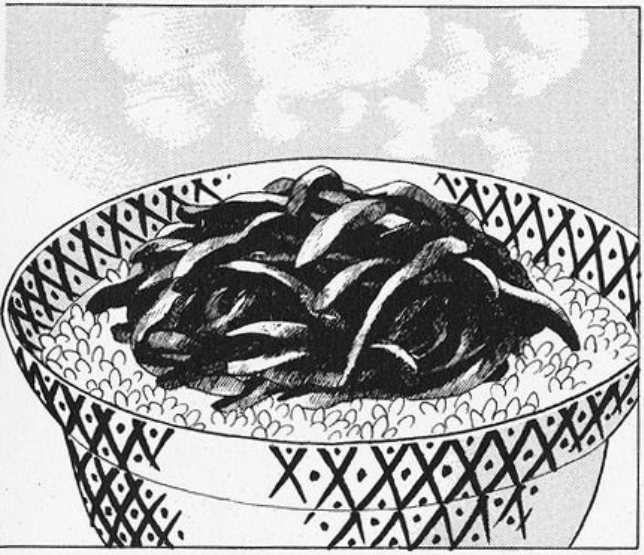
DELICIOUS!

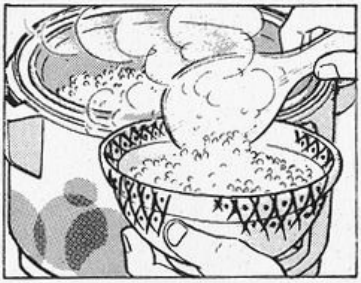

IT'S SQUID SASHIMI, PLEASE ENJOY.
PLUS, IT'S FIRM AND TAUT...
HUH? IT DOESN'T SMELL AT ALL...
クンクン
17
SMOOTH AND DOESN'T CLING TO THE TONGUE IN A LEWD WAY...
AND THIS TEXTURE, CRUNCHY YET CHEWY...!
O-OH... THIS MOUTHFEEL...
ムズ


HMM... THE FLAVOR IS REFRESHING, AND THE AFTERTASTE IS PLEASANT...
THE FRESH SQUID HAS NO ODOR OR TASTE AT ALL.
I'M AMAZED!
I'VE HAD SQUID SASHIMI ELSEWHERE, BUT THIS IS SOMETHING ELSE!
SO THIS IS THE REAL DELICIOUSNESS OF SQUID...!
NO, NOT YET.
18
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO?
PUT THE SQUID ALIVE INTO THE SOY SAUCE!
THIS ISN'T SOY SAUCE, IS IT?

DELICIOUS!





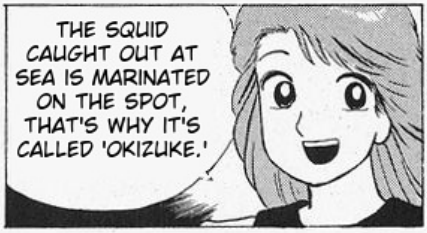


19

WHEN YOU PUT IT IN SOY SAUCE WHILE IT'S STILL ALIVE, THE FLAVOR PENETRATES EVEN INTO THE INNARDS.
BY PUTTING THE LIVE SQUID DIRECTLY INTO SOY SAUCE, THIS INCREDIBLE FLAVOR COMES OUT.

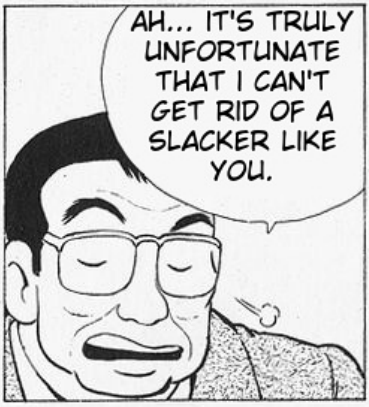
THERE'S NO UNPLEASANT SMELL OR OVERPOWERING TASTE AT ALL.
WHAT A GENTLE AND ELEGANT FLAVOR, IT'S RICH AND DEEP.
IS THIS THE TRUE TASTE OF SQUID!

THIS IS CALLED SQUID OKIZUKE.
THE SQUID'S ODOR DISAPPEARS, LEAVING ONLY THE UMAMI LOCKED IN.


THE SQUID CAUGHT OUT AT SEA IS MARINATED ON THE SPOT, THAT'S WHY IT'S CALLED 'OKIZUKE.'

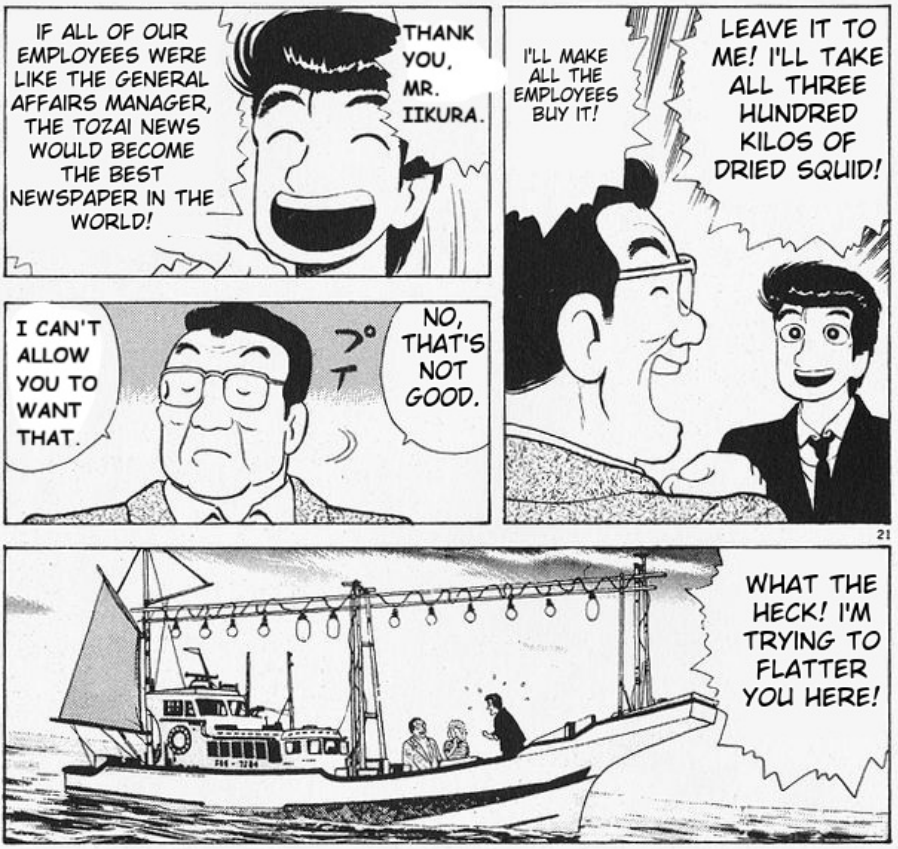
20

I'M GLAD TO HEAR IT!


AH... IT'S TRULY UNFORTUNATE THAT I CAN'T GET RID OF A SLACKER LIKE YOU.

ジロ

DELICIOUS!

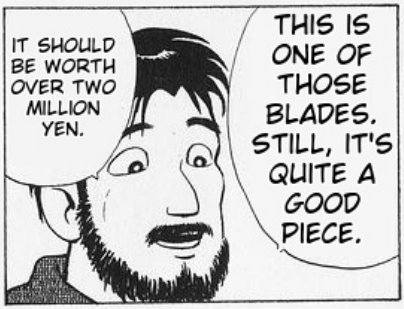

IF ALL OF OUR EMPLOYEES WERE LIKE THE GENERAL AFFAIRS MANAGER, THE TOZAI NEWS WOULD BECOME THE BEST NEWSPAPER IN THE WORLD!
THANK YOU, MR. IIKURA.
I'LL MAKE ALL THE EMPLOYEES BUY IT!
LEAVE IT TO ME! I'LL TAKE ALL THREE HUNDRED KILOS OF DRIED SQUID!
I CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO WANT THAT.
NO, THAT'S NOT GOOD.
WHAT THE HECK! I'M TRYING TO FLATTER YOU HERE!
SO MUCH...!
THIS IS...

GRANDMA!
THE DRIVER BROUGHT OUT THE REST OF THE SQUID FROM THE WAREHOUSE, AND EVERYTHING SOLD!
HAHAHA!
HAHA! HATSUKO, I WON THE GAMBLE!
HATSUKO!
I WAS SO WORRIED!
WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED?!
22

第7話
真夏のソバ

COULD YOU HELP ME FIND SOMEONE TO BUY THIS SHORT SWORD...?
SURELY IT WON'T BE LESS THAN ONE HUNDRED MILLION.
THIS IS A CRAFTED WEAPON BY SŌSHŪ GORŌ NYŪDŌ MASAMUNE. IT'S A SHORT SWORD, BUT IT'S A SWORD LIKE NO OTHER IN THE WORLD.
OH MY!
YIKES -!!
ONE HUNDRED MILLION?!
HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?
2
YOU...
IS IT A FAKE?
WELL, IF IT WAS GENUINE, IT WOULD...

DELICIOUS!


IT SHOULD BE WORTH OVER TWO MILLION YEN.
THIS IS ONE OF THOSE BLADES. STILL, IT'S QUITE A GOOD PIECE.

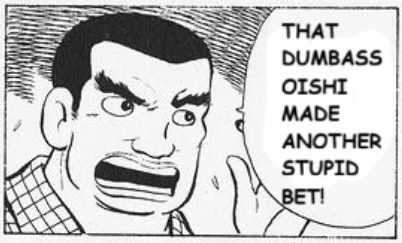
IT WAS GIVEN AS A REWARD TO A SUBORDINATE WHO ACHIEVED MERIT...
HIDEYOSHI AND IEYASU FORCED THE HON'AMI FAMILY OF SWORD APPRAISERS TO LABEL SWORDS THAT WEREN'T MASAMUNE AS MASAMUNE,

IT'S DROPPED QUITE A BIT FROM ONE HUNDRED MILLION YEN.

I REALLY NEED THE MONEY...

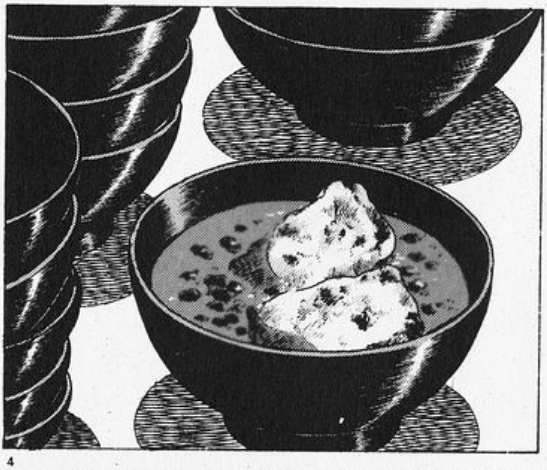
STILL, WHY ARE YOU SELLING THIS?

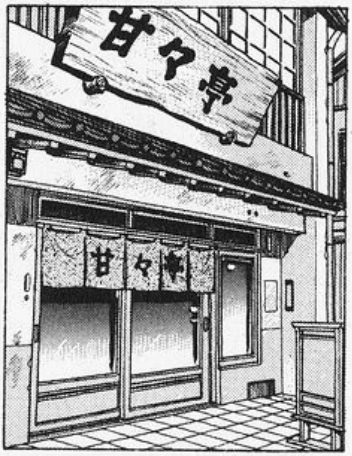
THAT IDIOT IS SELLING A DAGGER?!
ICE CREAM
UTAKO
アイスクリームハウス


THAT DUMBASS OISHI MADE ANOTHER STUPID BET!

WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED?

A BET?




甘々亭
甘々亭

4

UGH.
HAA
ゴクッ
はぁ
はぁ

ニヤニヤ
ニヤニヤ

DELICIOUS!

I... I CAN'T... ANYMORE...

WELL DONE! STOMACH MONSTER!
HIROHARA WINS!

OISHI HAS STARTED ON HIS FIFTEENTH CUP, BUT...
HIROHARA IS FINISHING HIS TWENTIETH CUP!
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OISHI! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR EARLIER ENERGY?!
DAMN...

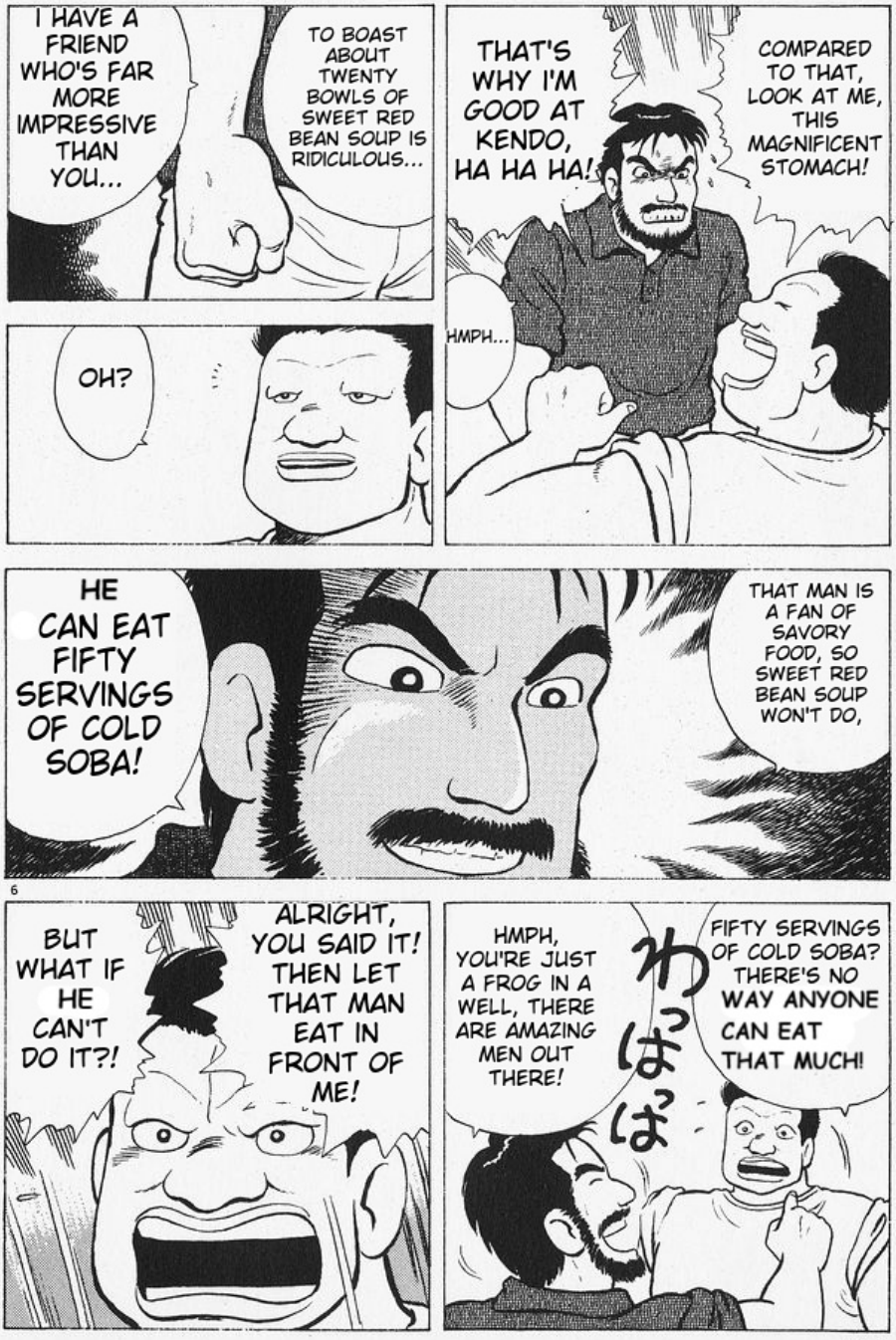
YOU WERE BOASTING YOU'D DEFINITELY WIN.
STILL, OISHI IS PATHETIC.

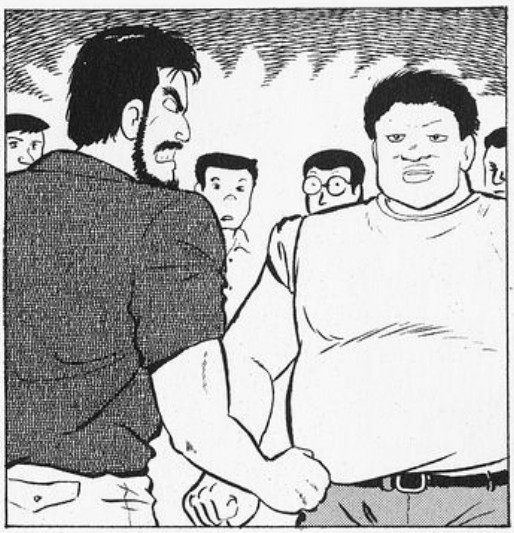
はあ
ABSOLUTELY!

5

W... WHAT?!

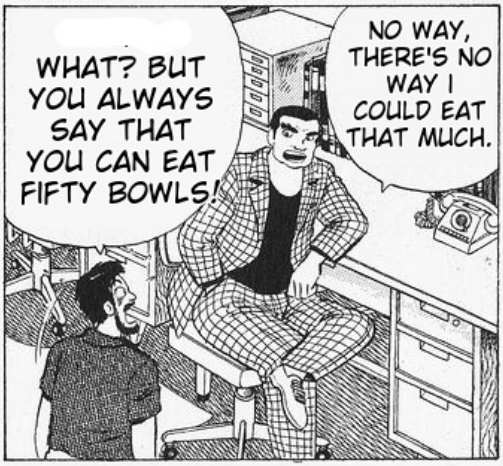
THAT'S WHY YOUR KENDO IS TERRIBLE, TOO. YOU DON'T HAVE ANY GUTS.
A MAN NEEDS GUTS! A MAN WITH A SMALL STOMACH HAS SMALL GUTS!


I HAVE A FRIEND WHO'S FAR MORE IMPRESSIVE THAN YOU...
TO BOAST ABOUT TWENTY BOWLS OF SWEET RED BEAN SOUP IS RIDICULOUS...
THAT'S WHY I'M GOOD AT KENDO, HA HA HA!
COMPARED TO THAT, LOOK AT ME, THIS MAGNIFICENT STOMACH!
HMPH...
OH?
HE CAN EAT FIFTY SERVINGS OF COLD SOBA!
THAT MAN IS A FAN OF SAVORY FOOD, SO SWEET RED BEAN SOUP WON'T DO,
6
BUT WHAT IF HE CAN'T DO IT?!
ALRIGHT, YOU SAID IT! THEN LET THAT MAN EAT IN FRONT OF ME!
HMPH, YOU'RE JUST A FROG IN A WELL, THERE ARE AMAZING MEN OUT THERE!
わっはっは
FIFTY SERVINGS OF COLD SOBA? THERE'S NO WAY ANYONE CAN EAT THAT MUCH!



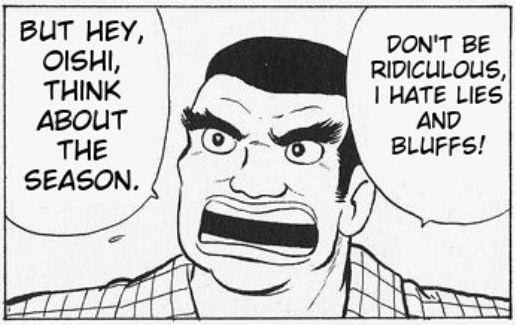
WHEN THAT TIME COMES, I'LL PAY YOU A MILLION YEN OR TWO MILLION YEN!

ALRIGHT, YOU ALL HEARD HIM SAY IT!
DON'T FORGET!


WHAT? BUT YOU ALWAYS SAY THAT YOU CAN EAT FIFTY BOWLS!
NO WAY, THERE'S NO WAY I COULD EAT THAT MUCH.

THAT'S WHY I'M COUNTING ON YOU, IT'S THE FIRST SUNDAY OF AUGUST IN TWO WEEKS.
中央警察署

7


BUT HEY, OISHI, THINK ABOUT THE SEASON.
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS, I HATE LIES AND BLUFFS!

SO, YOU LIED TO ME?! IT WAS ALL JUST A BIG BLUFF?!

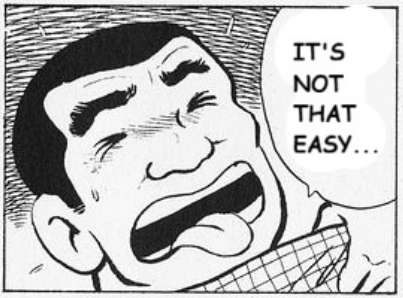
OH!
BUT AUGUST IS THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD FOR BUCKWHEAT.
BUCKWHEAT IS HARVESTED IN LATE AUTUMN. IF IT'S THE SEASON FOR NEW BUCKWHEAT, I COULD EAT FIFTY PLATES.
EVEN THOUGH I'M A BUCKWHEAT LOVER, I CAN BARELY MANAGE TEN PLATES OF THAT KIND OF BUCKWHEAT.
8
THAT SAID, THE BUCKWHEAT HARVESTED IN SUMMER HAS SUCH POOR FLAVOR THAT IT'S SAID 'SUMMER BUCKWHEAT ISN'T EVEN EATEN BY DOGS.'
THE BUCKWHEAT HARVESTED LAST AUTUMN HAS LOST ITS FLAVOR AND AROMA.
POOR MR. OISHI...
HE REALLY MADE THE BET AT THE WORST POSSIBLE TIME.

FOR OISHI-SAN'S SAKE, PLEASE EAT FIFTY BOWLS WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT!

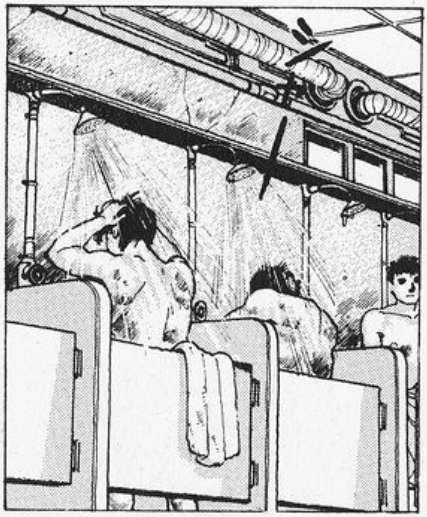
HE'S POOR, SO HE HAS NO OTHER CHOICE...
THAT SHORT DAGGER IS A TREASURE THAT OISHI CHERISHES AS A KEEPSAKE FROM HIS FATHER.

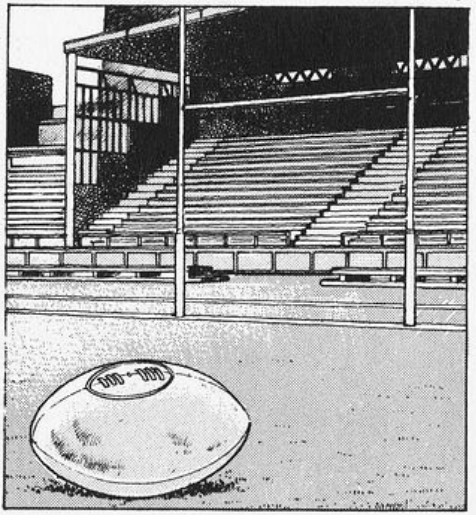
NAKAMATSU-SAN! NO MATTER HOW BAD IT IS, WHAT DOES IT MATTER?

.....

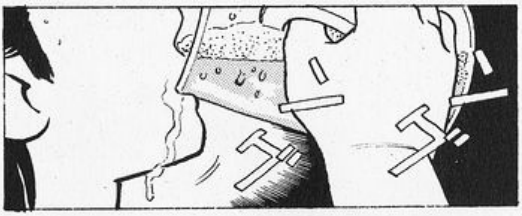

IT'S NOT THAT EASY...

9

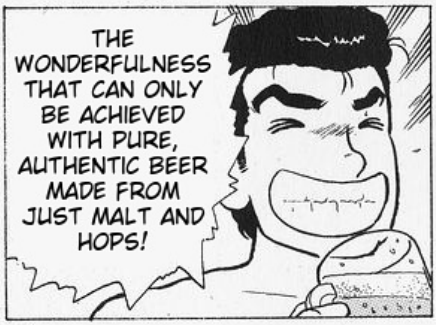




CHEERS!



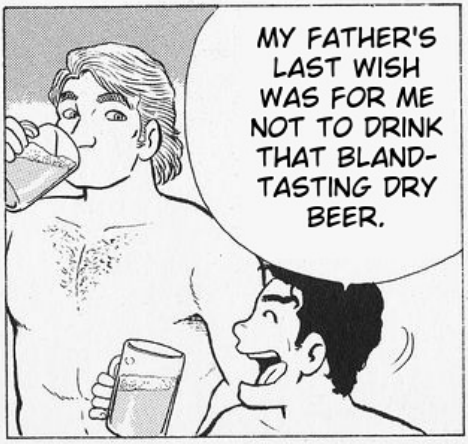
OI, LADS! I GOT US SOME SCHOONERS!


THE WONDERFULNESS THAT CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED WITH PURE, AUTHENTIC BEER MADE FROM JUST MALT AND HOPS!

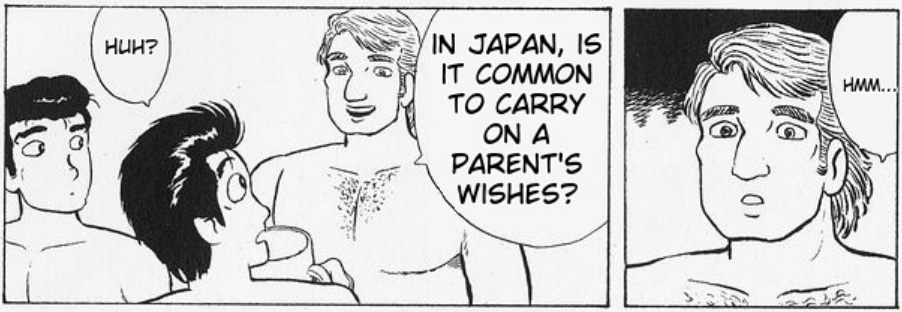
REFRESHING AND DELICIOUS! THE AROMA IS SO VIVID!
BUAHAHA——!

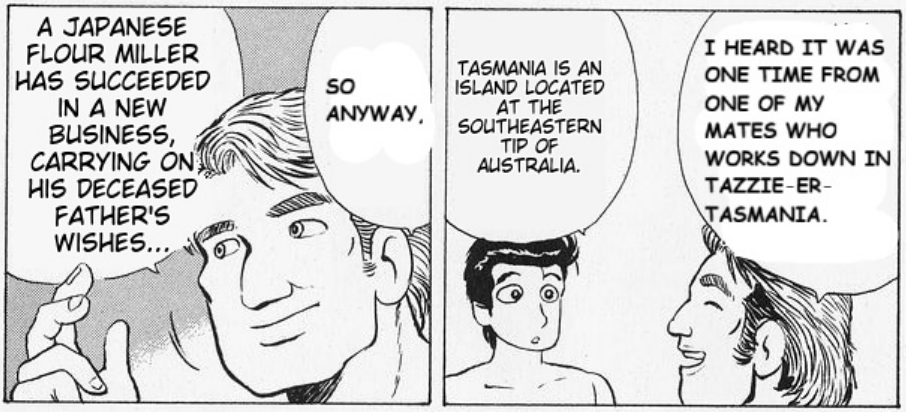
10

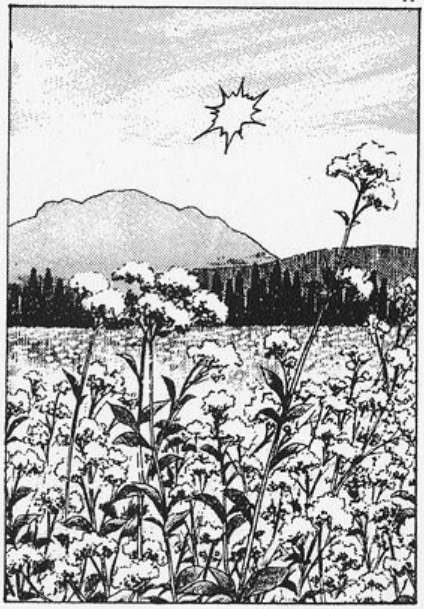
AHAHAHA, YOU FIGURED IT OUT!
PFFT! I FIGURED YOUR OLD DAD WOULD'VE BEEN DEAD LONG BEFORE DRY BEER WAS INVENTED!


MY FATHER'S LAST WISH WAS FOR ME NOT TO DRINK THAT BLAND-TASTING DRY BEER.

DELICIOUS!

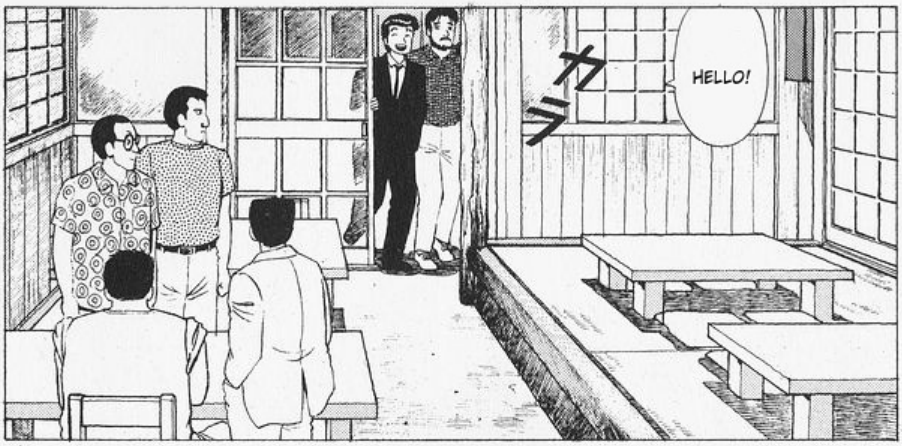

HUH?
IN JAPAN, IS IT COMMON TO CARRY ON A PARENT'S WISHES?
HMM...


A JAPANESE FLOUR MILLER HAS SUCCEEDED IN A NEW BUSINESS, CARRYING ON HIS DECEASED FATHER'S WISHES...
SO ANYWAY,
TASMANIA IS AN ISLAND LOCATED AT THE SOUTHEASTERN TIP OF AUSTRALIA.
I HEARD IT WAS ONE TIME FROM ONE OF MY MATES WHO WORKS DOWN IN TAZZIE-ER-TASMANIA.



INSPECTOR NAKAMATSU, REJOICE!
WHOA! THIS IS AMAZING!

I CAN'T EAT FIFTY BOWLS OF SOBA...
OH DEAR...
雷門
.....
.....
IT'S ALL BECAUSE I MADE A STUPID BET...
I'M SORRY,
12
ニタニタ
YAMAOKA! THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE GRINNING LIKE THAT!

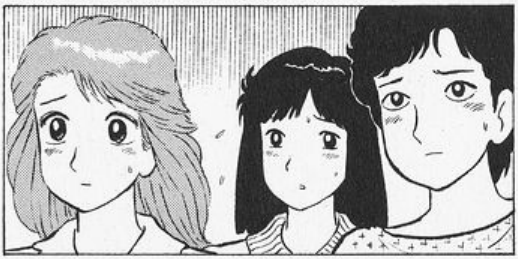

HELLO!
カラカラ

WELL... I'LL GIVE IT A TRY...
HERE.

SO, WHERE'S THIS FRIEND WHO CAN EAT 50 BOWLS OF SOBA?
ニヤニヤ

UH...

13



HAHAHA.
WITH SOBA OUT OF SEASON, 5 BOWLS IS GOING TO BE TOUGH, BUT 50?! HA! NEVER!

IT SEEMS THE CUSTOMERS HAVE GATHERED.

AREN'T YOU A VALUED CUSTOMER WHO VISITS US OFTEN?
YOU THERE, I RECOGNIZE YOU!

OH, NO, NOT AT ALL.
HEY THERE, MASTER, I'M SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE TODAY.

NICE TO MEET YOU.
I AM SHIRATORI, SUPPLYING THE SOBA FLOUR.

WE'VE ALSO PREPARED AN OBSERVER FROM OUR SIDE.
THANK YOU.

YES, I LOVE YOUR SOBA, SO I COME HERE OFTEN.

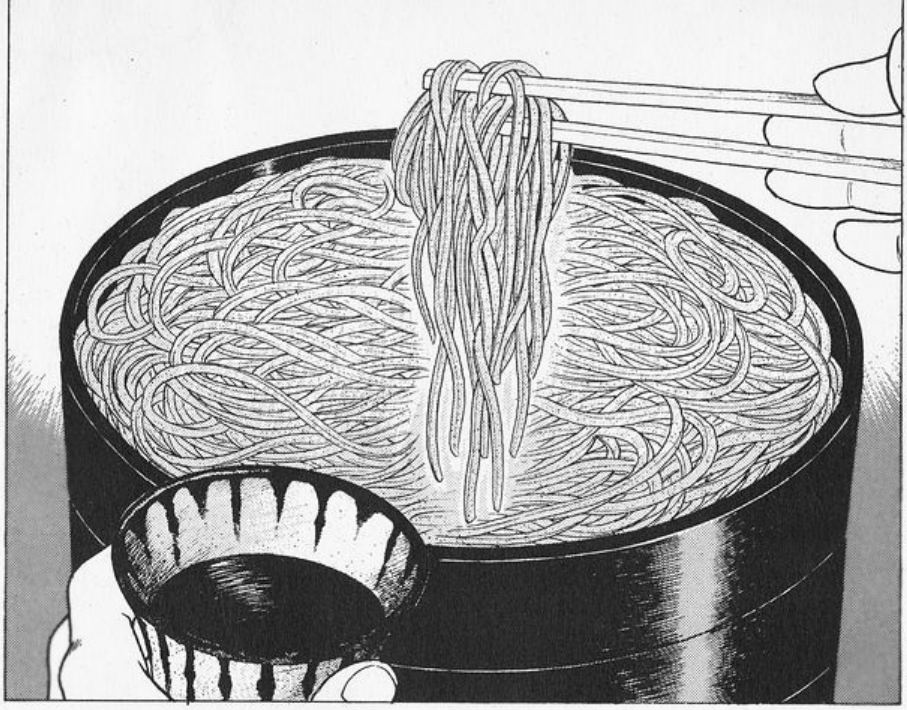
UNDERSTOOD.
NOW, MASTER, SHALL WE BEGIN?

14

とほほ…
NAKAMATSU-SAN, DO YOUR BEST.

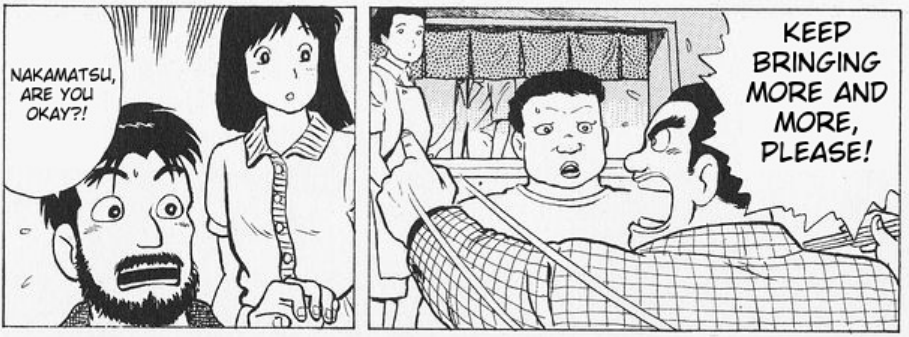
DELICIOUS!

.....
NO MATTER HOW WELL YOU STORE IT, THE AROMA AND FLAVOR WILL DETERIORATE...
HOWEVER... IF IT'S BUCKWHEAT HARVESTED LAST AUTUMN...
IT HAS A REFRESHING SCENT... AND THE TASTE IS FLUFFY AND SWEET...
AH... IF THIS IS NEW BUCKWHEAT, THEN THE COOKED BUCKWHEAT IS ALSO GREENISH...
IT'S GREENISH!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!!!!!
ON TOP OF THAT, THE COLOR LOOKS DARK AND BLACK...



BUT, IT'S AUGUST?!
THIS, THIS IS NEW SOBA, ISN'T IT!
ズ

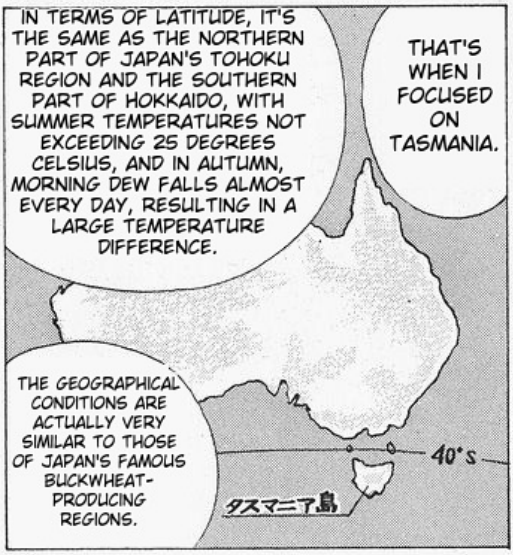
16

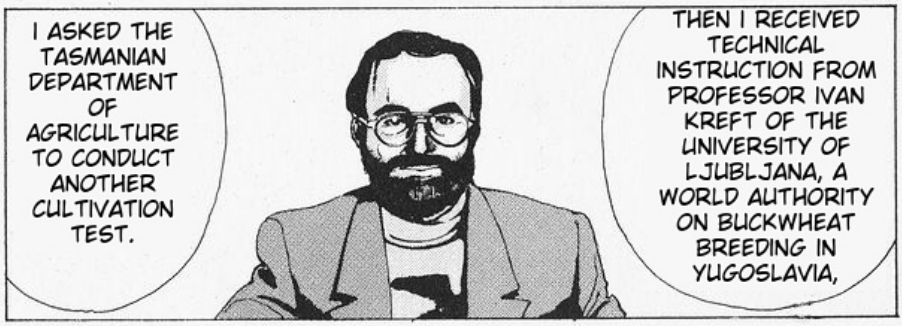

NAKAMATSU, ARE YOU OKAY?!
KEEP BRINGING MORE AND MORE, PLEASE!

DELICIOUS!

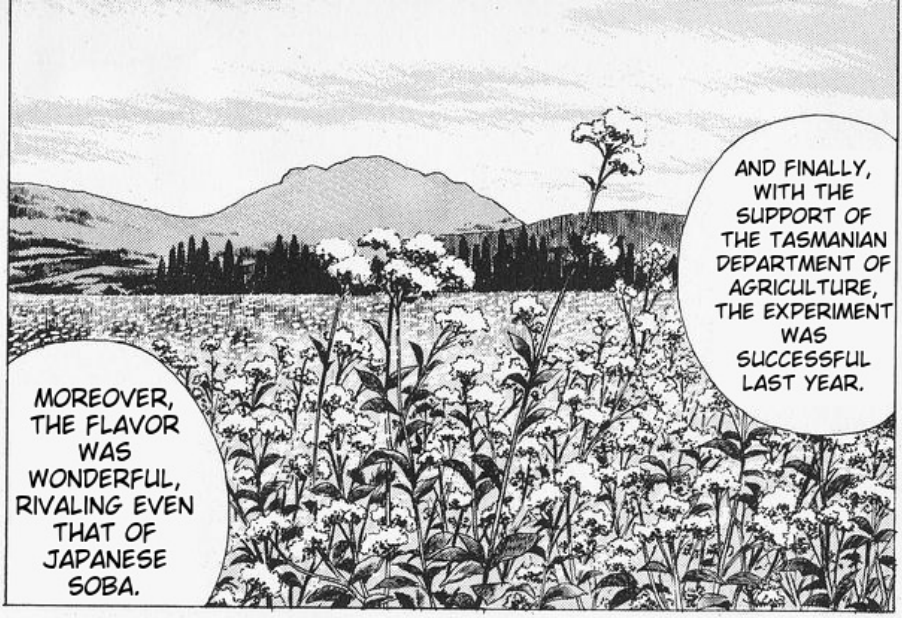
17

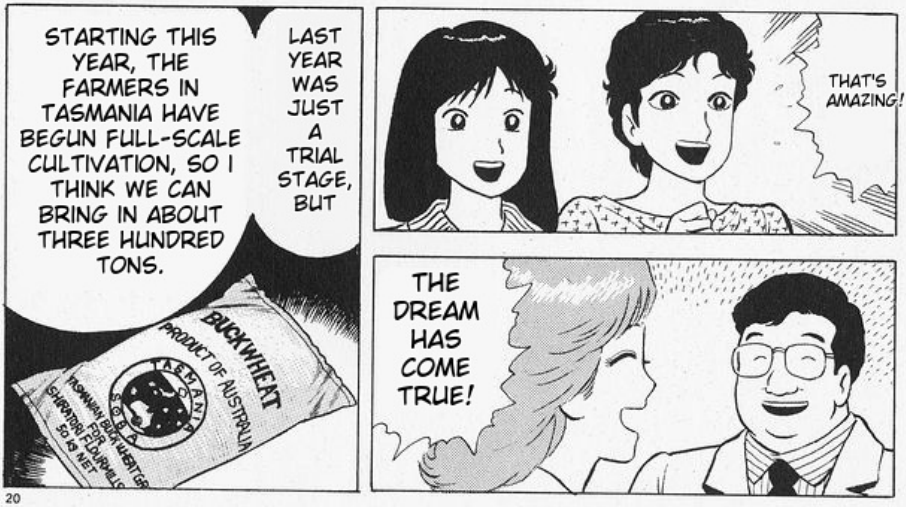
OUR COMPANY HAS BEEN SUPPLYING FLOUR TO THE YABU AT KAMINARIMON SINCE MY FATHER'S GENERATION.
BUT EVERY SUMMER, WITHOUT FAIL, WE WOULD BE SCOLDED BY THE MASTER FOR THE POOR QUALITY OF THE FLOUR.
NEW BUCKWHEAT?
NO, IT'S GENUINE NEW BUCKWHEAT.
THIS ISN'T BUCKWHEAT HARVESTED IN JAPAN.
IT WAS HARVESTED IN TASMANIA, AUSTRALIA.
MY FATHER THOUGHT DEEPLY, IF BUCKWHEAT COULD BE HARVESTED IN AUSTRALIA, WHERE THE SEASONS ARE OPPOSITE TO JAPAN,
I THOUGHT OF GETTING NEW BUCKWHEAT IN JAPAN'S SUMMER TRANSITIONAL PERIOD.
"FACE IT HEAD-ON," I TOLD THIS MAN'S DECEASED FATHER.
IN THIS ADVANCED MODERN AGE OF SCIENCE, ISN'T THERE SOMETHING WE CAN DO?
18
RECEIVING A REPORT OF 'EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTING RESULTS,' UNFORTUNATELY, HE GAVE UP...
HOWEVER, WHEN MY FATHER ACTUALLY SENT SEEDS FROM JAPAN TO THE AUSTRALIAN WHEAT BOARD AND HAD THEM CONDUCT BUCKWHEAT CULTIVATION TRIALS,
105

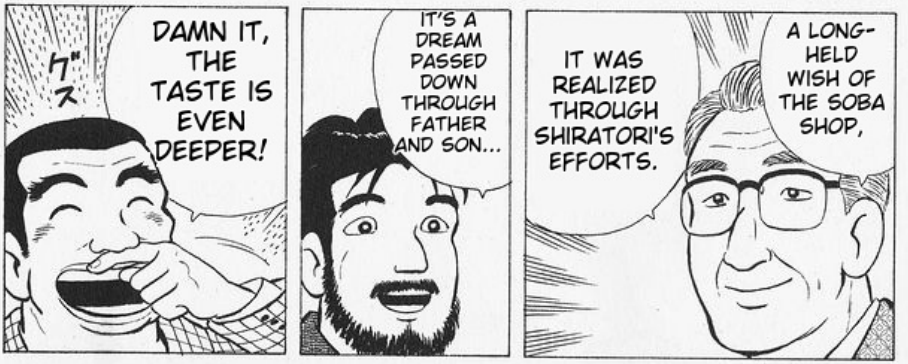




*TL NOTE: DR. IVAN KREFT IS, IN FACT, A REAL PERSON. AS OF THIS WRITING, HE IS 83 AND STILL A PROFESSOR AT LJUBLJANA.

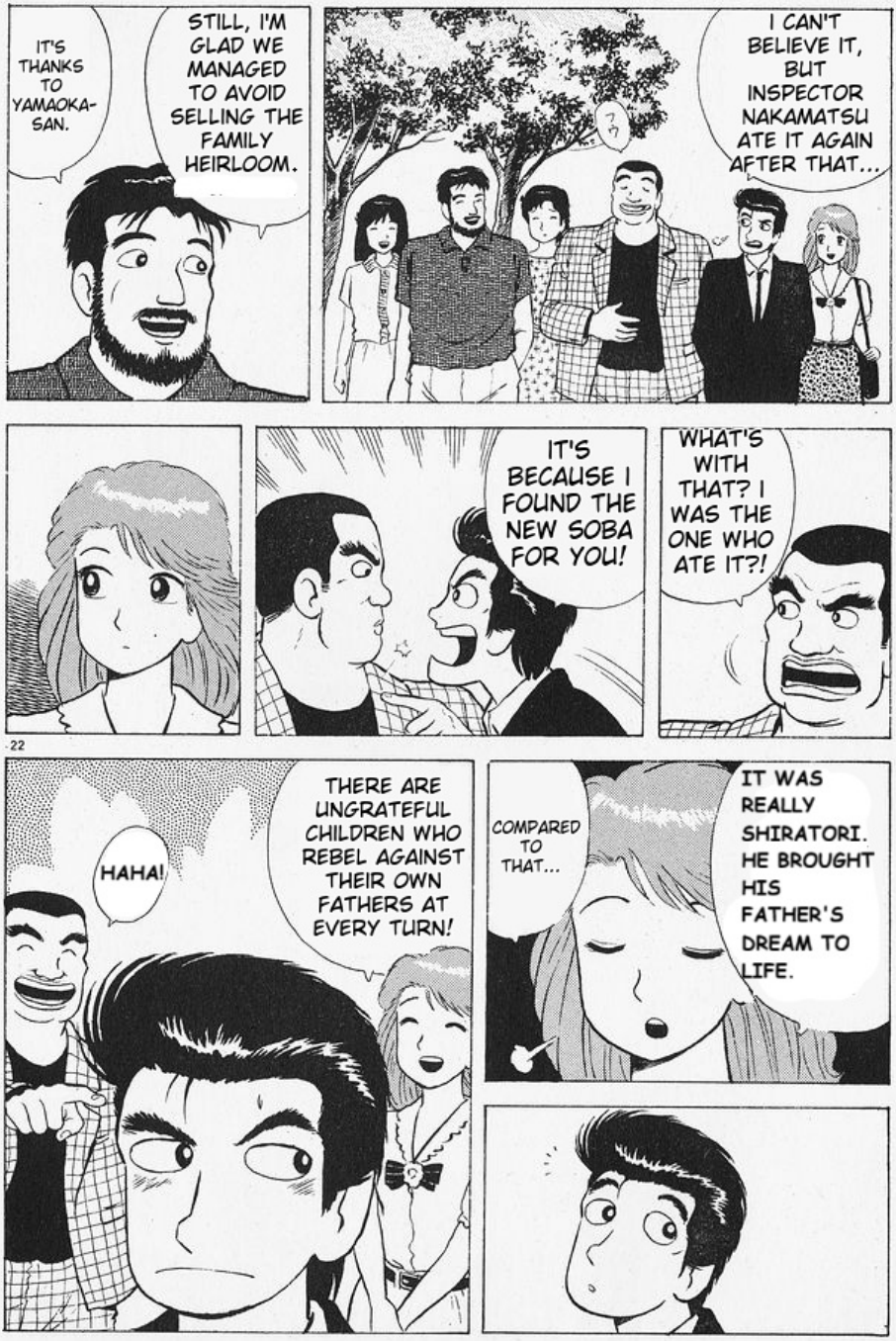

AND FINALLY, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE TASMANIAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, THE EXPERIMENT WAS SUCCESSFUL LAST YEAR.
MOREOVER, THE FLAVOR WAS WONDERFUL, RIVALING EVEN THAT OF JAPANESE SOBA.


LAST YEAR WAS JUST A TRIAL STAGE, BUT
STARTING THIS YEAR, THE FARMERS IN TASMANIA HAVE BEGUN FULL-SCALE CULTIVATION, SO I THINK WE CAN BRING IN ABOUT THREE HUNDRED TONS.
BUCKWHEAT
PRODUCT OF AUSTRALIA
THAT'S AMAZING!
THE DREAM HAS COME TRUE!

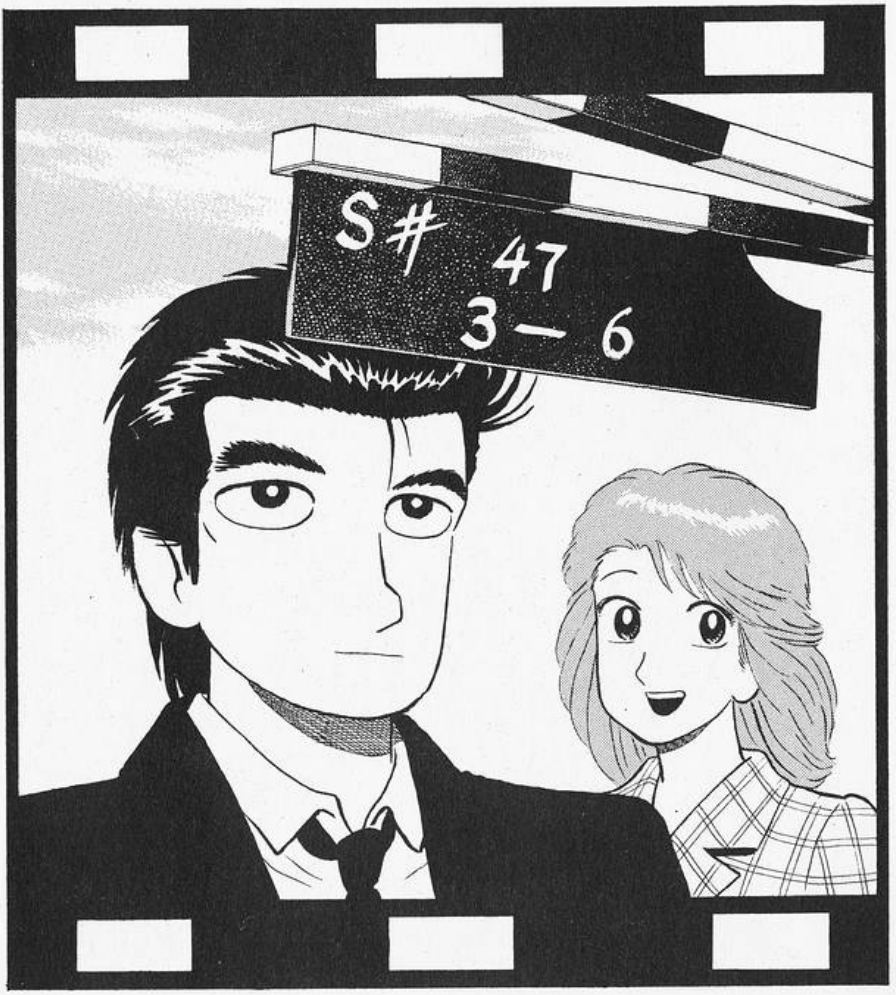

DAMN IT, THE TASTE IS EVEN DEEPER!
IT'S A DREAM PASSED DOWN THROUGH FATHER AND SON...
IT WAS REALIZED THROUGH SHIRATORI'S EFFORTS.
A LONG-HELD WISH OF THE SOBA SHOP,

I AGREE!
LET'S HAVE SOME OF THAT NEW TASMANIAN BUCKWHEAT TOO!
COME ON, IT'S NOT FAIR IF ONLY INSPECTOR NAKAMATSU GETS TO ENJOY IT!
OH DEAR, AT THIS RATE WE'LL HAVE TO PLANT BUCKWHEAT ALL OVER TASMANIA!
はははは
ALRIGHT, I'LL TAKE ON FIFTY BOWLS, TOO!
MR. HIROHARA, PLEASE JOIN US AS WELL.
THANK YOU, THEN I'LL ALSO GO FOR FIFTY BOWLS!

21

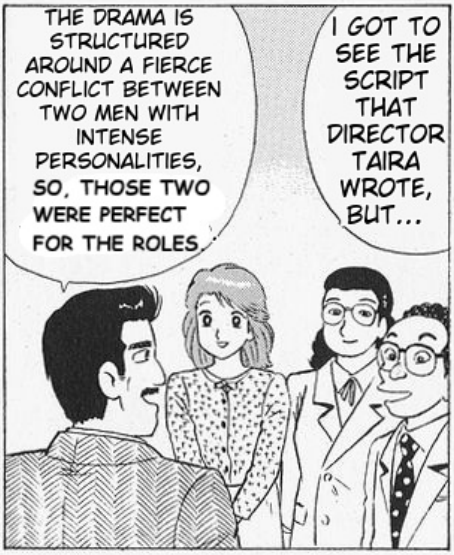

IT'S THANKS TO YAMAOKA-SAN.
STILL, I'M GLAD WE MANAGED TO AVOID SELLING THE FAMILY HEIRLOOM.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT, BUT INSPECTOR NAKAMATSU ATE IT AGAIN AFTER THAT...
IT'S BECAUSE I FOUND THE NEW SOBA FOR YOU!
WHAT'S WITH THAT? I WAS THE ONE WHO ATE IT?!
22
HAHA!
THERE ARE UNGRATEFUL CHILDREN WHO REBEL AGAINST THEIR OWN FATHERS AT EVERY TURN!
COMPARED TO THAT...
IT WAS REALLY SHIRATORI. HE BROUGHT HIS FATHER'S DREAM TO LIFE.

第8話
二人のスター



YOU'VE REALIZED YOUR LIFELONG DREAM!
THAT'S AMAZING! PRODUCING DIRECTOR TAIRA'S NEW WORK!
CONGRATULATIONS, TANIMURA-SAN!
AND KNOWS EVERY SCENE FROM ALL OF HIS WORKS!
TANIMURA-SAN HAS BEEN A DEVOTEE OF TAIRA'S FILMS SINCE HIS SCHOOL DAYS.
平良 明 監督作品
2
ポカパカ ビキ
YOU'RE THE WEIRDO!
YOU'RE ALMOST A WEIRDO.
SPENDING YOUR YOUTH IN THE DARKNESS OF THE CINEMA...
WOW, THAT'S INCREDIBLE! YOU WERE SUCH A PASSIONATE MOVIE BUFF.

DELICIOUSNESS 23



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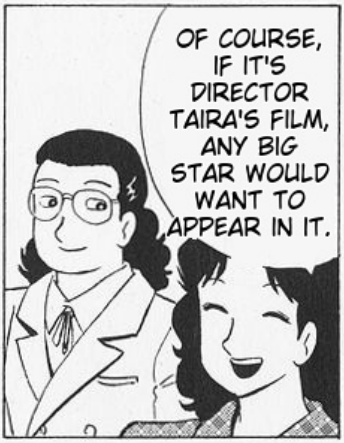

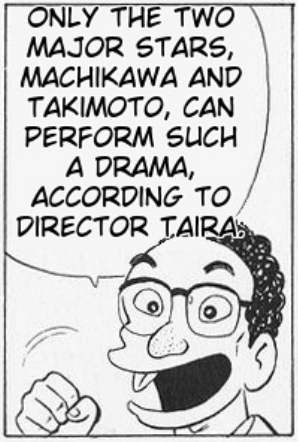

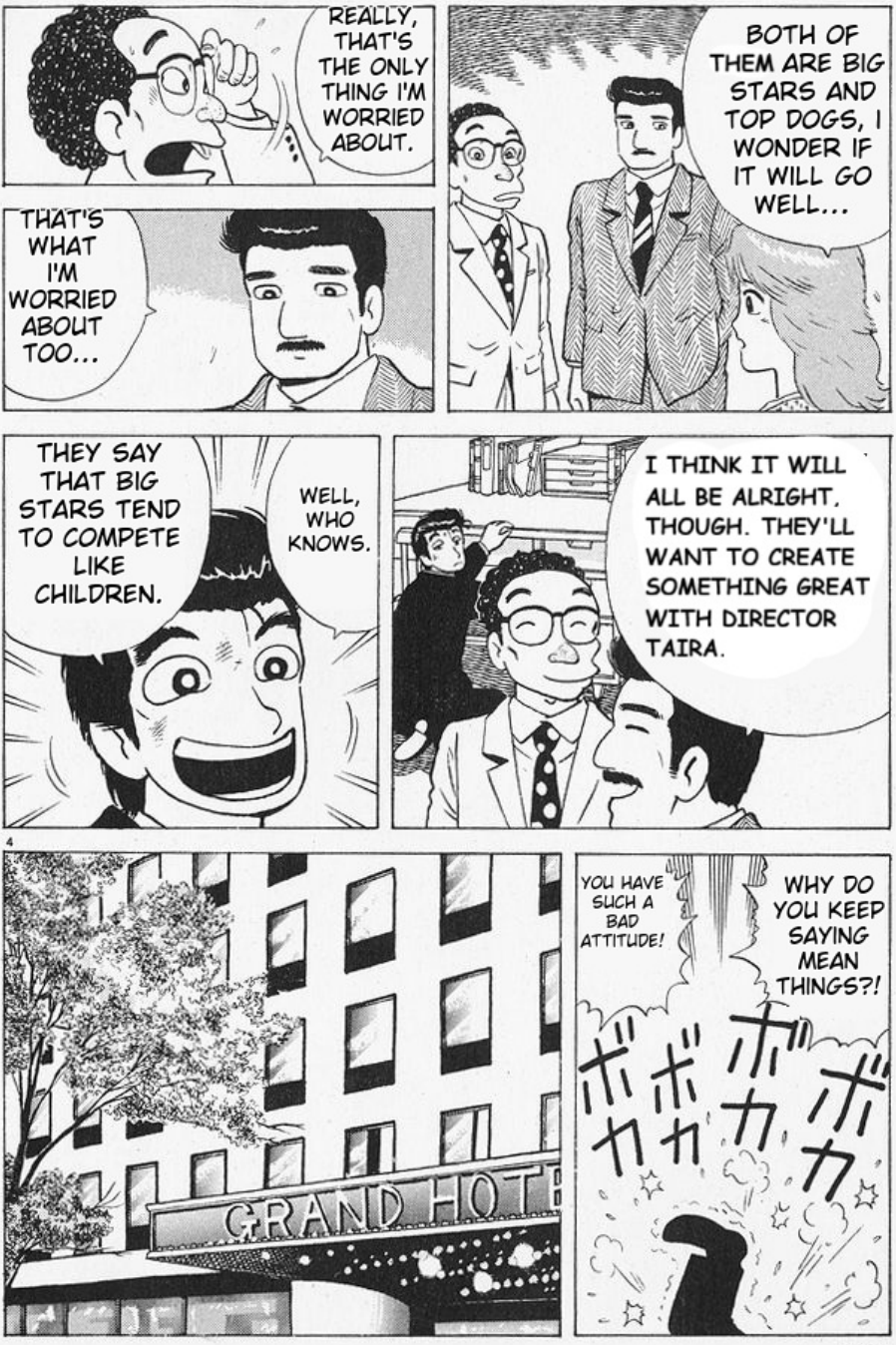
REALLY, THAT'S THE ONLY THING I'M WORRIED ABOUT.
THAT'S WHAT I'M WORRIED ABOUT TOO...
BOTH OF THEM ARE BIG STARS AND TOP DOGS, I WONDER IF IT WILL GO WELL...
THEY SAY THAT BIG STARS TEND TO COMPETE LIKE CHILDREN.
WELL, WHO KNOWS.
I THINK IT WILL ALL BE ALRIGHT, THOUGH. THEY'LL WANT TO CREATE SOMETHING GREAT WITH DIRECTOR TAIRA.
4
GRAND HOT
YOU HAVE SUCH A BAD ATTITUDE!
WHY DO YOU KEEP SAYING MEAN THINGS?!
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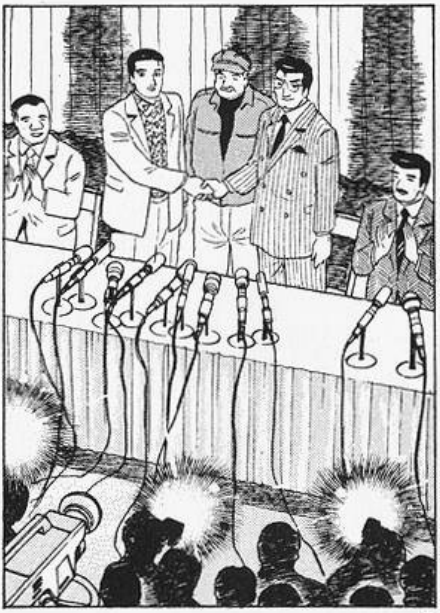

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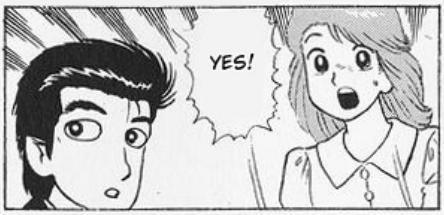
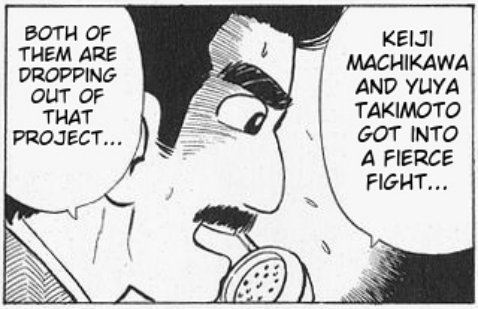
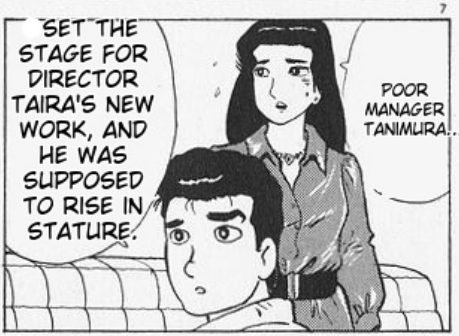
161 *TL NOTE: DIRECTOR TAIRA IS CLEARLY BASED ON THE LEGENDARY JAPANESE DIRECTOR AKIRA KUROSAWA. THE TWO STARS SEEM TO BE BASED ON HIS LEADING MEN, TOSHIRO MIFUNE AND TATSUYA NAKADAI (WHO OFTEN PLAYED RIVALS, BUT WERE IN REALITY CLOSE FRIENDS).

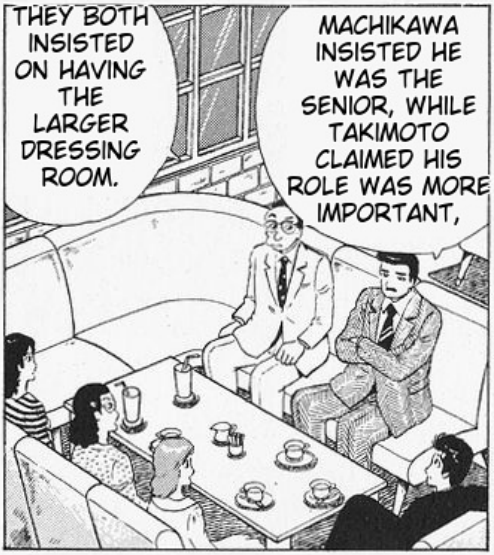
WHERE SHOULD WE GO FOR THE NEXT FOREIGN REPORT IN 'WORLD TASTE TOUR'?!
東西新聞社
WELL, THAT WOULD MAKE FOR A VERY DARK TOPIC.
YOU SHOULD INVESTIGATE HOW IT'S IMPACTING FOOD.
EUROPE SEEMS TO STILL BE AFFECTED BY THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR ACCIDENT.
EUROPE SOUNDS NICE TOO.
YES, THIS IS TANIMURA SPEAKING...
6
YOU'RE BEING SO CARELESS AGAIN!
WE COULD MASK OUR FEARS WITH THE FOAM OF GERMAN BEER.

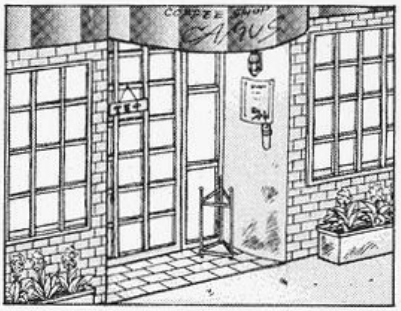
DELICIOUSNESS 23








THEY BOTH INSISTED ON HAVING THE LARGER DRESSING ROOM.
MACHIKAWA INSISTED HE WAS THE SENIOR, WHILE TAKIMOTO CLAIMED HIS ROLE WAS MORE IMPORTANT,



THE TRIGGER FOR THE CONFLICT WAS THE COMPETITION OVER THE DRESSING ROOM AT THE STUDIO.

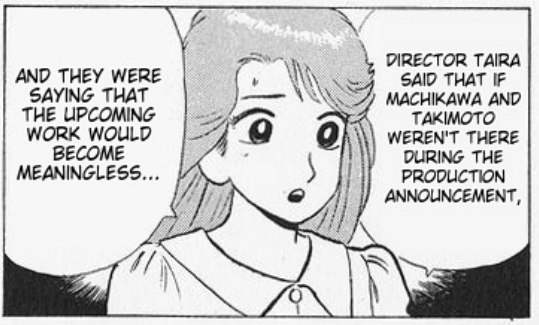
UNBELIEVABLE!

THAT'S JUST LIKE A CHILDREN'S FIGHT!

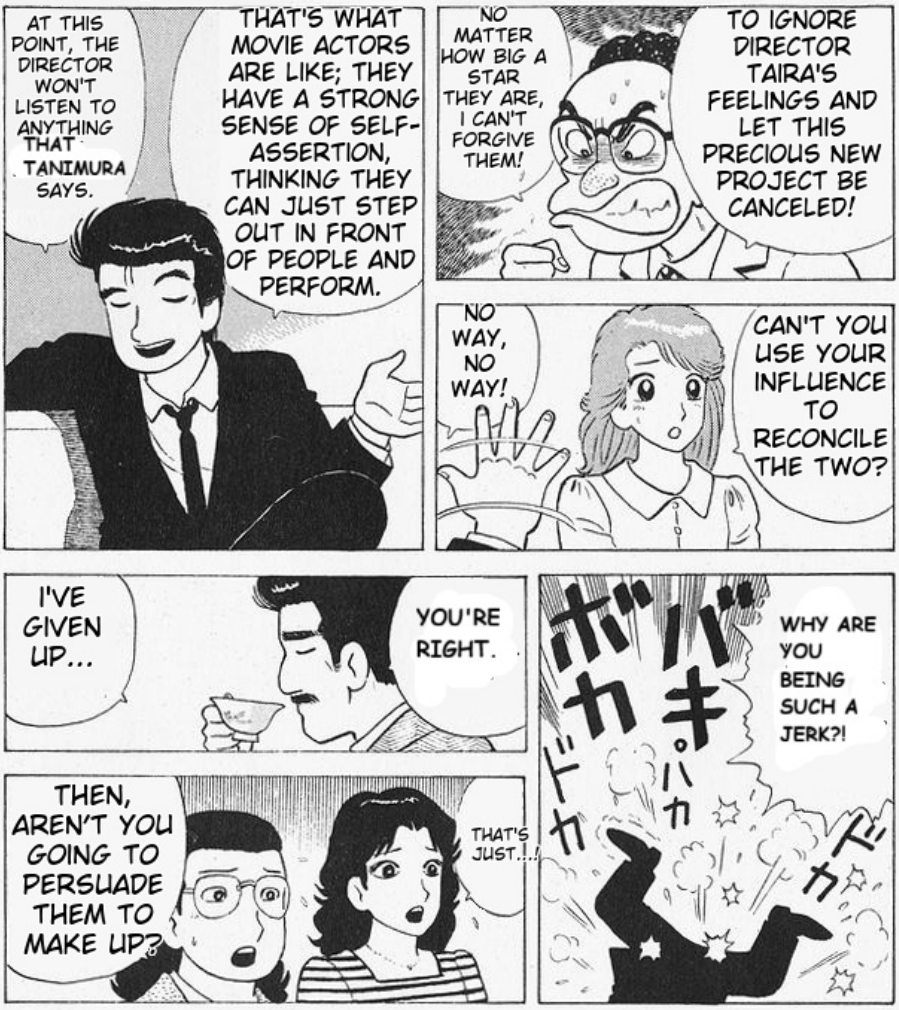
IT SEEMS THEY ALMOST GOT INTO A PHYSICAL FIGHT IN THE END...
THEN IT ESCALATED TO NAME-CALLING, SAYING THE OTHER WAS A TURNIP OR HAD A BAD VOICE OR WAS VULGAR...

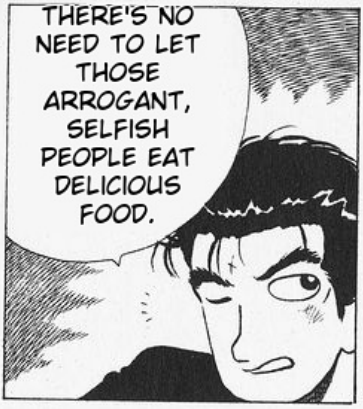
8

THEY MUST HAVE A STRONG DISLIKE FOR EACH OTHER.

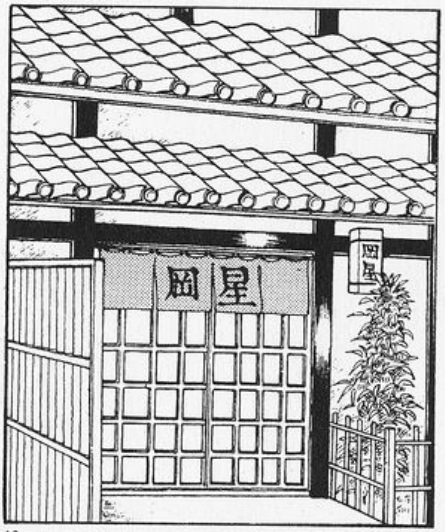

AND THEY WERE SAYING THAT THE UPCOMING WORK WOULD BECOME MEANINGLESS...
DIRECTOR TAIRA SAID THAT IF MACHIKAWA AND TAKIMOTO WEREN'T THERE DURING THE PRODUCTION ANNOUNCEMENT,

DELICIOUSNESS 23




THERE'S NO NEED TO LET THOSE ARROGANT, SELFISH PEOPLE EAT DELICIOUS FOOD.

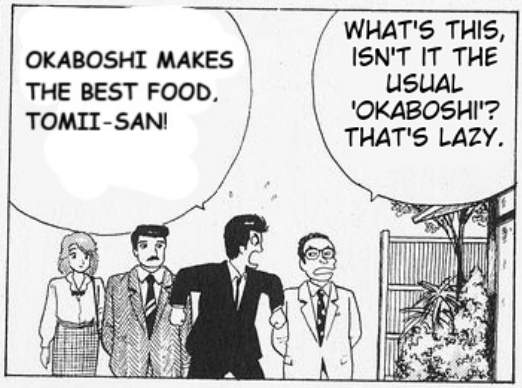
THEY SEEM TO HAVE HIGH STANDARDS, SO WE CAN'T TAKE THEM TO A WEIRD PLACE.
CAN'T YOU FIND A PLACE THAT HAS A RELAXED ATMOSPHERE AND SERVES DELICIOUS FOOD WHERE WE CAN LISTEN TO THE TWO OF THEM?
THAT'S JUST TERRIBLE.
フゥ


岡星

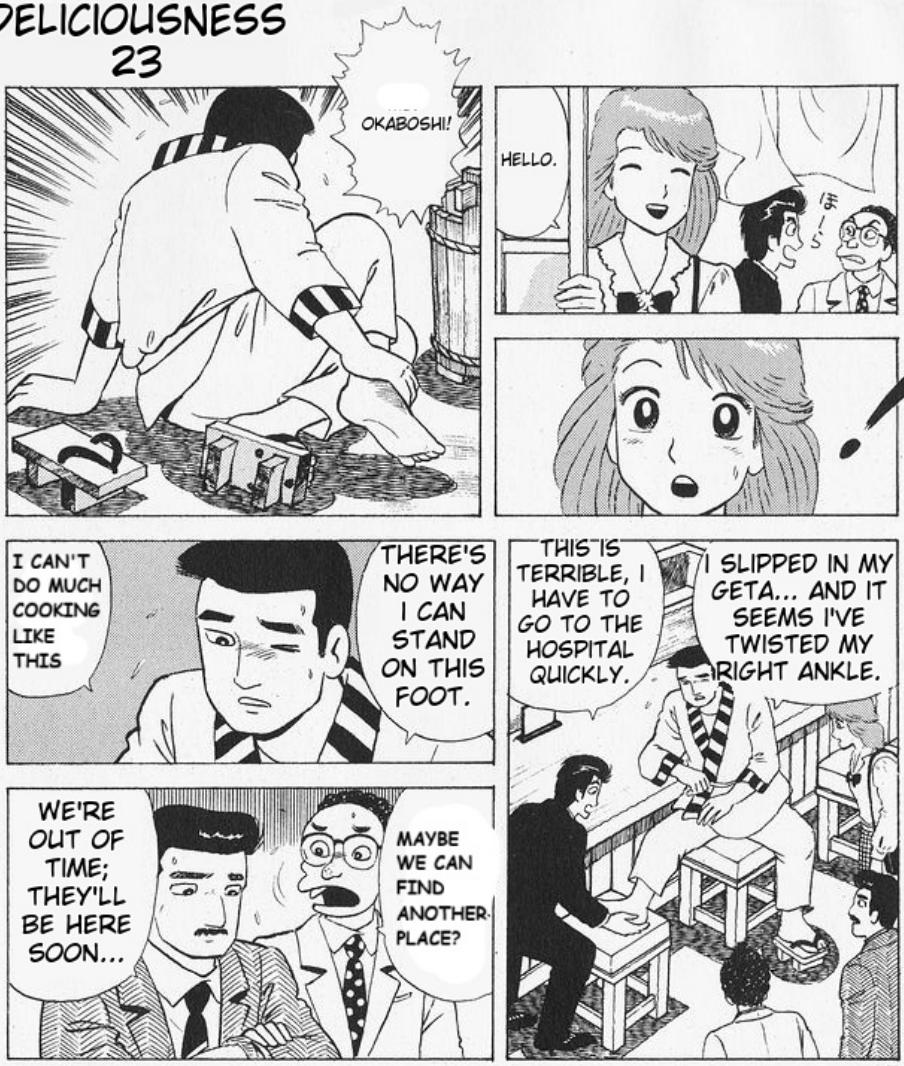
I'LL FIND IT, I'LL FIND IT!
ドドドカカカドドカ
WAIT, WAIT!

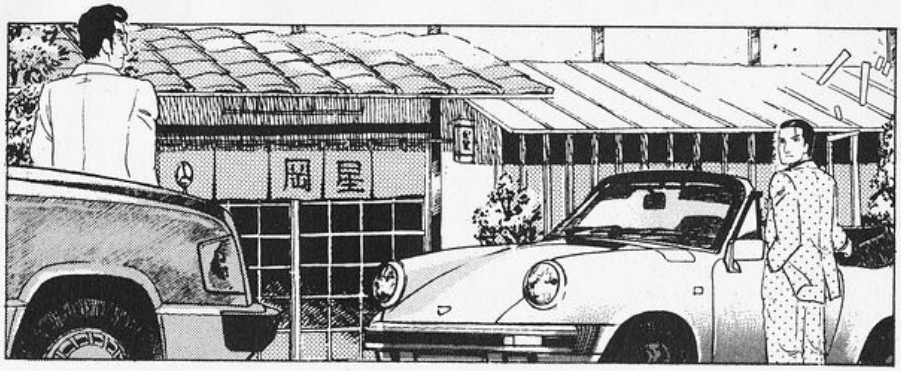
10

WELL, WELL... 'OKABOSHI' IS MORE THAN ENOUGH.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO SAY THAT, THEN LET'S GO TO A DIFFERENT, WORSE RESTAURANT...!


OKABOSHI MAKES THE BEST FOOD, TOMII-SAN!
WHAT'S THIS, ISN'T IT THE USUAL 'OKABOSHI'? THAT'S LAZY.

DELICIOUSNESS 23





WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.
WELCOME.

THIS PLACE MAY LOOK HUMBLE, BUT PLEASE BEAR WITH ME. I THINK IT WILL SUIT YOUR TASTES.

12

TCH

PLEASE, THIS WAY.
THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TODAY.

DELICIOUSNESS 23

I UNDERSTAND VERY WELL NOW.
I WANTED TO HEAR DIRECTLY ABOUT THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF YOUR CONFLICT...

WELL, WELL...

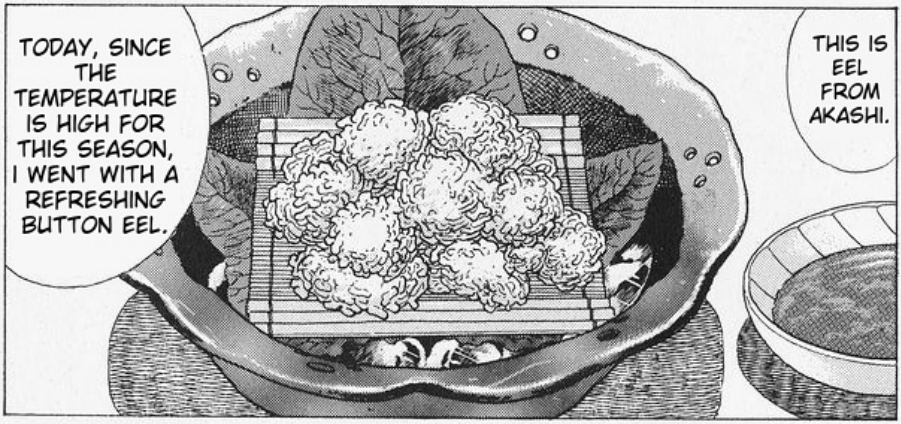
NOW, BRING OUT MORE DELICIOUS FOOD.
THIS WILL PROBABLY BE THE LAST TIME THE TWO BIG STARS DINE TOGETHER, SO MAKE IT SPECIAL.

I HOPE THERE WON'T BE ANY MORE TROUBLE...
THAT FACE OF YAMAOKA'S...

14

OH, THIS IS A MAGNIFICENT MATSUTAKE.
THIS IS TANBA'S MATSUTAKE.

DELICIOUSNESS 23



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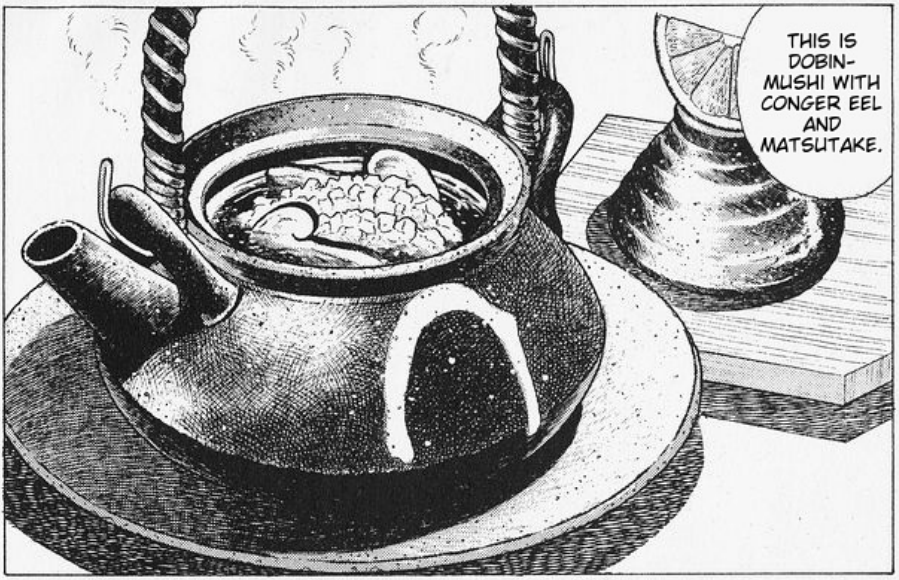
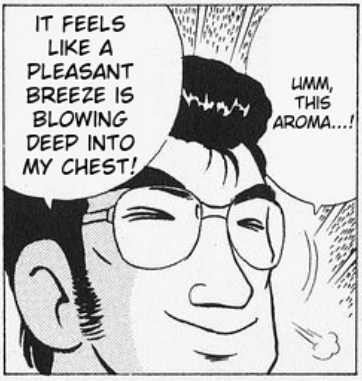
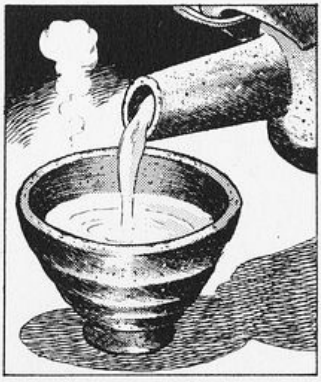

THIS IS DOBIN-MUSHI WITH CONGER EEL AND MATSUTAKE.

IF THE CHEF ISN'T CONFIDENT IN BOTH HIS SKILLS AND THE INGREDIENTS, HE CAN'T PULL THIS OFF.

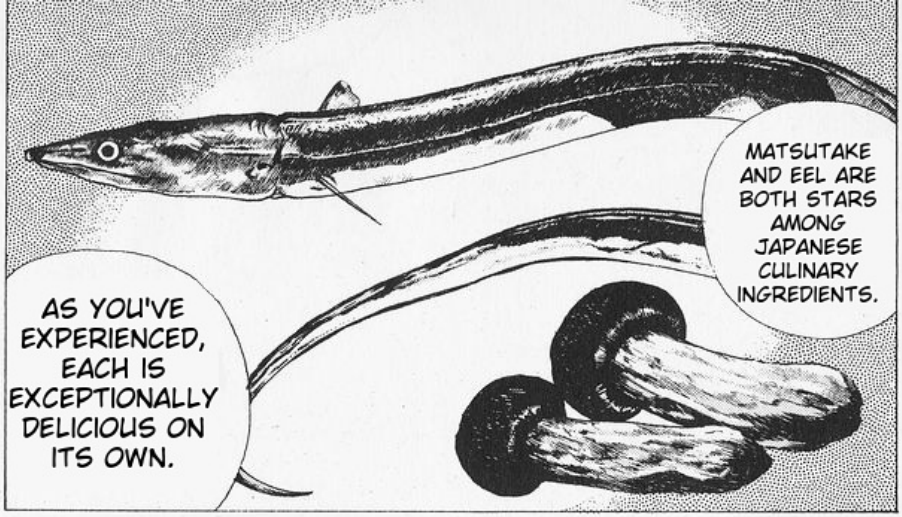
TO LET US TASTE THE MATSUTAKE AND CONGER EEL SEPARATELY, AND THEN SERVE US THE DOBIN-MUSHI AFTERWARD.
I SEE, YOU'VE DONE WELL.

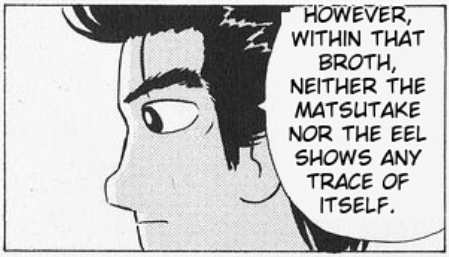
16


IT FEELS LIKE A PLEASANT BREEZE IS BLOWING DEEP INTO MY CHEST!
UMM, THIS AROMA...!



DELICIOUSNESS 23


MATSUTAKE AND EEL ARE BOTH STARS AMONG JAPANESE CULINARY INGREDIENTS.
AS YOU'VE EXPERIENCED, EACH IS EXCEPTIONALLY DELICIOUS ON ITS OWN.


HOWEVER, WITHIN THAT BROTH, NEITHER THE MATSUTAKE NOR THE EEL SHOWS ANY TRACE OF ITSELF.

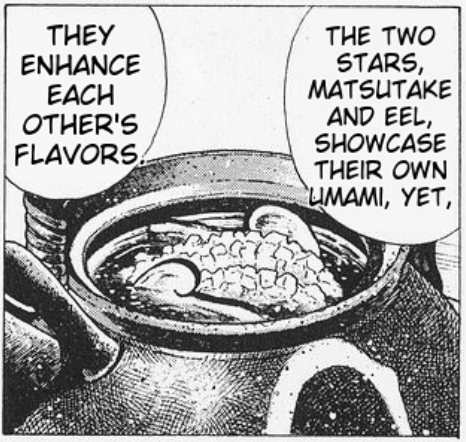
?

THEIR DELICIOUSNESS COMES FROM THE MATSUTAKE AND EEL.
NOW, THE DOBIN MUSHI MADE WITH THESE TWO STARS HAS ALL ITS FLAVOR IN THE BROTH.

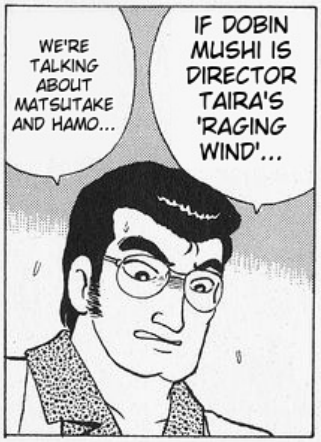
OH...

18

MM...

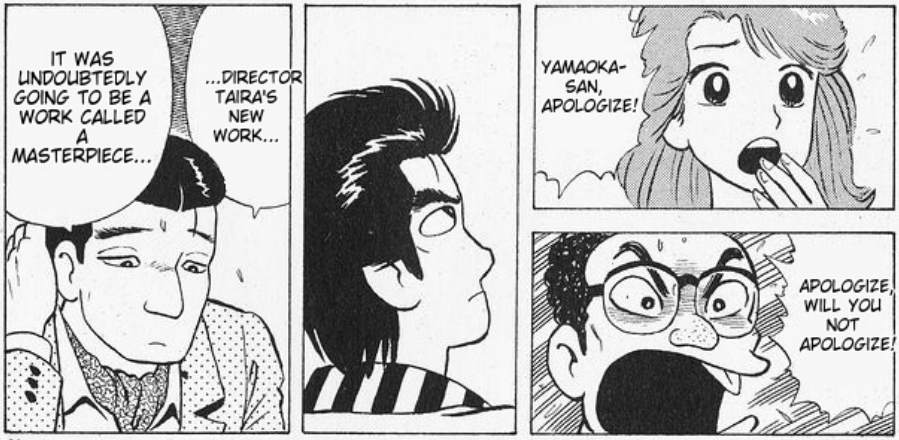

THEY ENHANCE EACH OTHER'S FLAVORS.
THE TWO STARS, MATSUTAKE AND EEL, SHOWCASE THEIR OWN UMAMI, YET,

DELICIOUSNESS 23



19

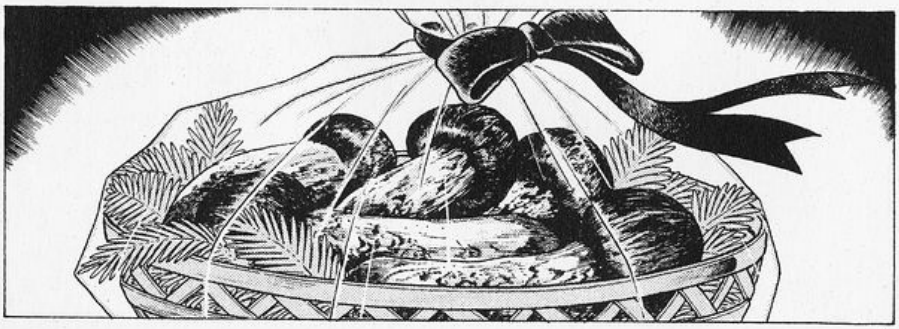
I AM FRUSTRATED! I WON'T LET THIS GO AS IT IS!
TAKIMOTO-KUN, AREN'T YOU FRUSTRATED? A MERE CHEF CAPTURING US, SAYING WE'RE JUST STARS IN NAME AND NOT TRUE ACTORS!


IT WAS UNDOUBTEDLY GOING TO BE A WORK CALLED A MASTERPIECE...
...DIRECTOR TAIRA'S NEW WORK...
YAMAOKA-SAN, APOLOGIZE!
APOLOGIZE, WILL YOU NOT APOLOGIZE!

20

IF HE WILL WORK WITH US AGAIN?
MR. TANIMURA, COULD YOU ASK DIRECTOR TAIRA FOR ME?
OH... IF ONLY WE HADN'T DONE SUCH A THING...
MACHIKAWA-SAN, TAKIMOTO-SAN...

DELICIOUSNESS 23



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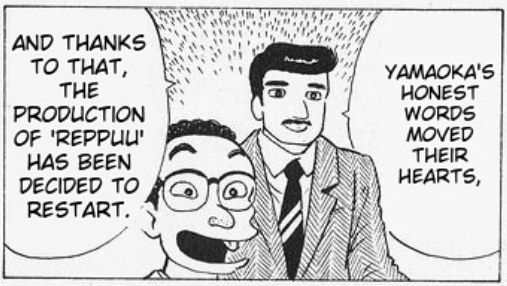
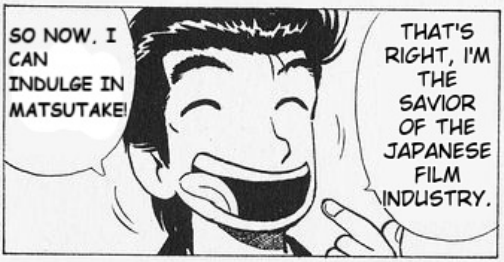




YOW!!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I'M DEFINITELY TAKING IT.
BUT I THINK IT WOULD BE BETTER NOT TO ACCEPT THIS MATSUTAKE.
WELL, THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO THEN...
BECAUSE THE LETTER THEY ATTACHED SAYS THIS.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
BECAUSE YOU SNATCHED IT BEFORE I COULD!
WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME THIS LATER?!
THE PERSON DELIVERING THIS MATSUTAKE SHOULD KICK MR. YAMAOKA HARD IN THE REAR WHEN HE RECEIVES IT.
I AM TRULY GRATEFUL TO MR. YAMAOKA, BUT EVEN SO, I CAN'T JUST BACK DOWN AFTER BEING INSULTED LIKE THAT.

第9話
もやしっ子

HITOSHI IS SET TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PARENT-CHILD RACE.
HOWEVER, THAT DAY IS HITOSHI'S SCHOOL'S SPORTS DAY.
Coffee & Cake CAMUS
THIS SUNDAY, MY WIFE AND I ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO ATTEND A RELATIVE'S MEMORIAL SERVICE...
YES, PLEASE HELP ME!
SO, YOU WANT YAMAOKA-SAN AND I TO TAKE YOUR PLACE?
2
はははっ
NO, APPARENTLY THE POINTS FROM THE PARENT-CHILD RACE HOLD SIGNIFICANT MEANING FOR EACH GROUP, SO HE HAS TO PARTICIPATE.
WHAT'S SO SIGNIFICANT ABOUT IT?! IT'S JUST AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SPORTS DAY, RIGHT?!
WELL, CAN'T HITOSHI JUST NOT PARTICIPATE IN THAT RACE?

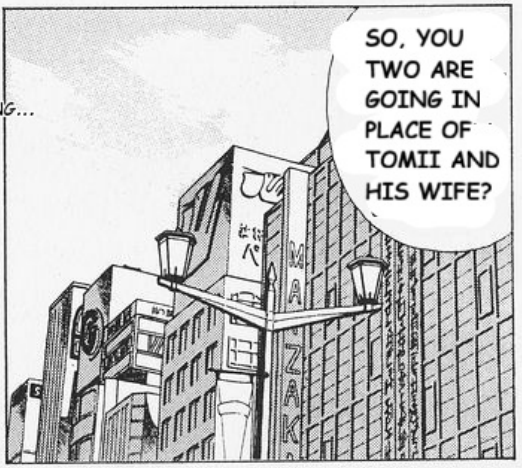
BECAUSE OF US ADULTS, HITOSHI IS UNABLE TO FULFILL HIS RESPONSIBILITIES...
POOR HITOSHI...
YOU'RE JUST NOT GOING TO SAY YES, ARE YOU?!

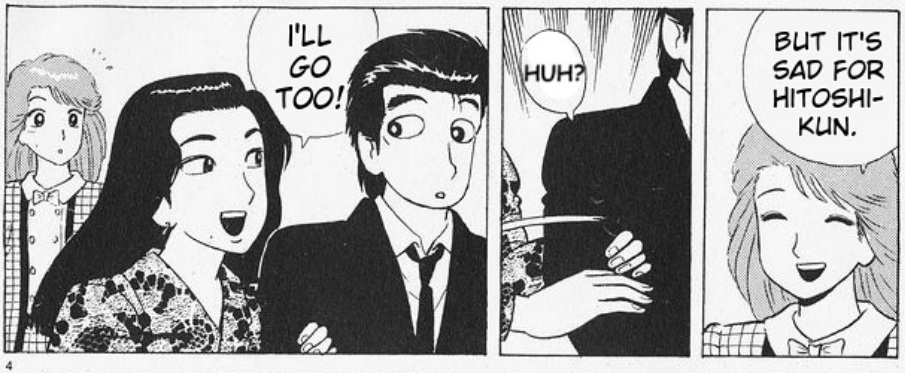
WHY WOULD NOT PARTICIPATING IN A SPORTS FESTIVAL LEAD TO FAMILY SUICIDE?!
ALRIGHT! SO I JUST NEED TO GO, RIGHT?!

DELINQUENT BOY... TROUBLEMAKER... CORRUPTION... CRIME...
THIS MIGHT BE THE TRIGGER FOR HITOSHI TO GO ASTRAY...
OH NO... THIS WILL LEAD TO OUR FAMILY'S RUIN... FAMILY SUICIDE...

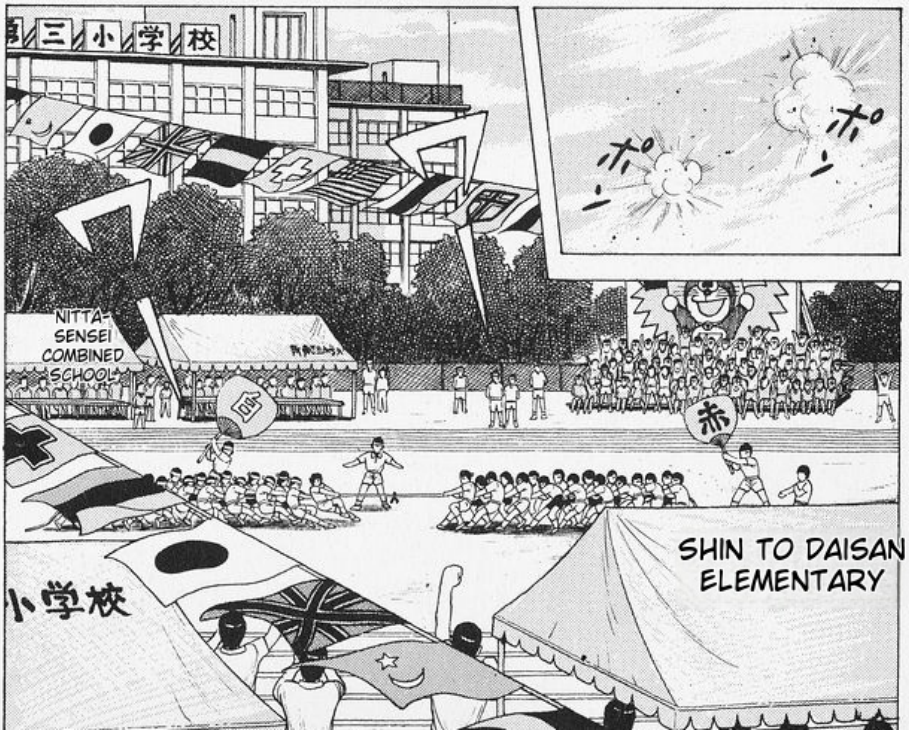
3

THIS IS REALLY FRUSTRATING...

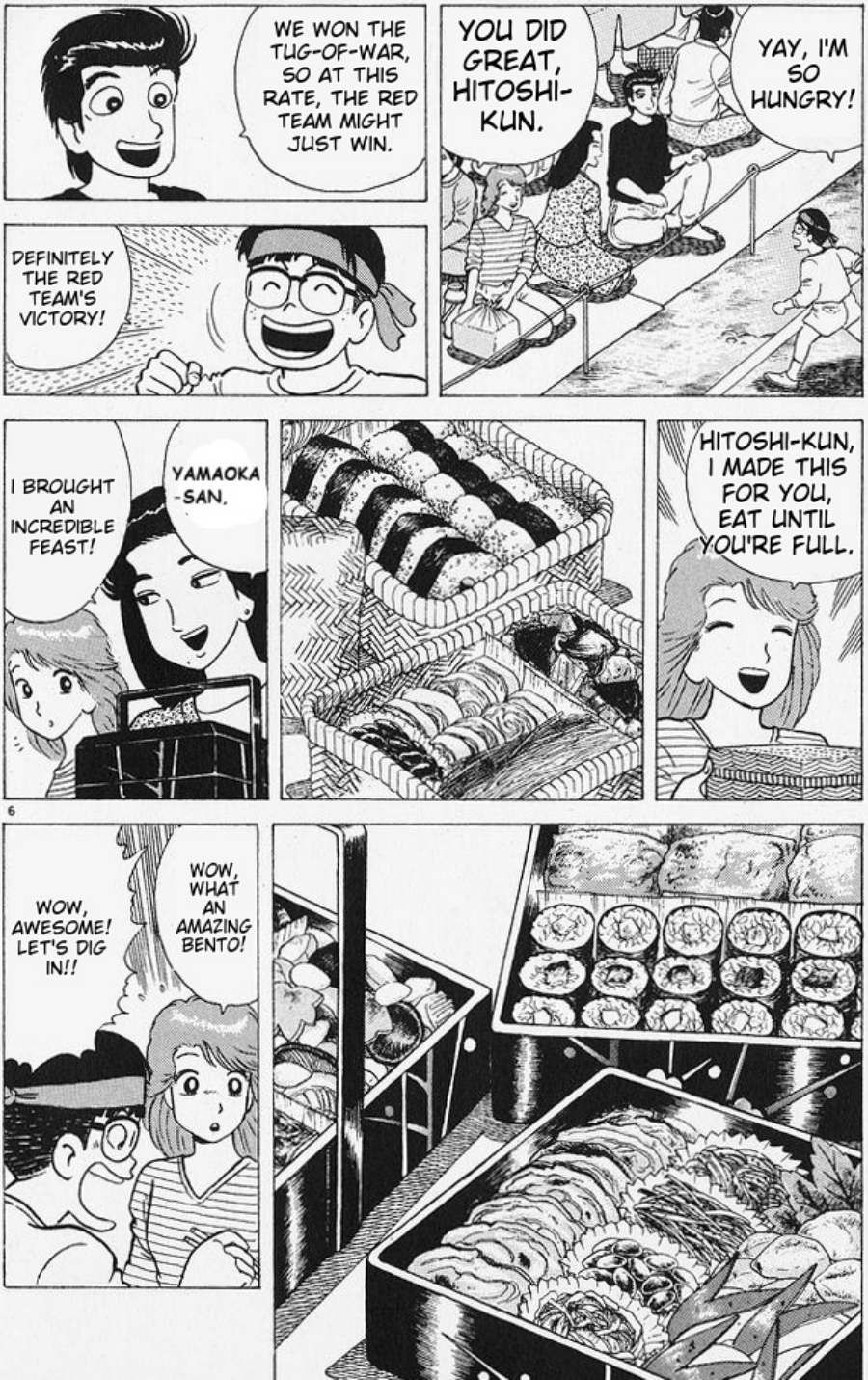

SO, YOU TWO ARE GOING IN PLACE OF TOMII AND HIS WIFE?


I'LL GO TOO!
HUH?
BUT IT'S SAD FOR HITOSHI-KUN.

WHA!
KURITA, I CAN RUN WITH HITOSHI-KUN INSTEAD, IF YOU WANT?

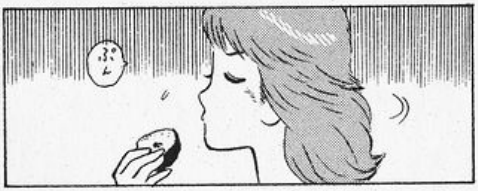

NITTA-SENSEI COMBINED SCHOOL
SHIN TO DAISAN ELEMENTARY

赤
ヨイ
ヨイ
?
小学校
GO, RED TEAM!
DO YOUR BEST, HITOSHI-KUN——!!
5
THIS IS A ONE-HOUR LUNCH BREAK.
STUDENTS MAY EAT LUNCH WITH THEIR PARENTS.
新三
I WONDER WHY HE ISN'T JOINING THE TUG-OF-WAR?
THAT KID IS IN THE SAME RED TEAM AS HITOSHI, RIGHT?


WE WON THE TUG-OF-WAR, SO AT THIS RATE, THE RED TEAM MIGHT JUST WIN.
DEFINITELY THE RED TEAM'S VICTORY!
YOU DID GREAT, HITOSHI-KUN.
YAY, I'M SO HUNGRY!
I BROUGHT AN INCREDIBLE FEAST!
YAMAOKA-SAN.
HITOSHI-KUN, I MADE THIS FOR YOU, EAT UNTIL YOU'RE FULL.
WOW, AWESOME! LET'S DIG IN!!
WOW, WHAT AN AMAZING BENTO!

DELICIOUS!

あーん
THIS IS QUITE DELICIOUS!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SO THAT'S WHY YOU DON'T WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PARENT-CHILD RACE TODAY.
THAT GUY DOESN'T HAVE A DAD.

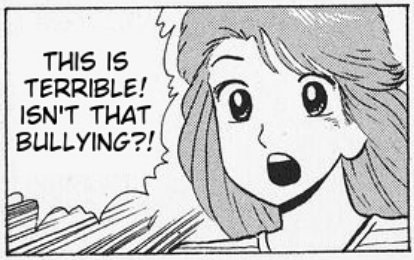
IS HE YOUR CLASSMATE?
AH, IT'S MASASHI.

HM? IT'S THAT KID FROM EARLIER...

AND... MASASHI IS WEAK, SO HE GETS BULLIED EVEN MORE.

EVERYONE UNDERSTANDS THAT I DON'T HAVE A DAD, SO THEY TEASE ME.
WHY?

WELL...

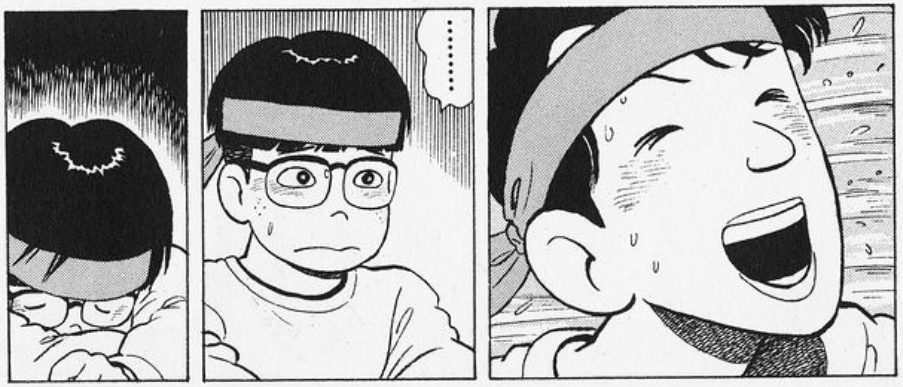

THIS IS TERRIBLE! ISN'T THAT BULLYING?!

THE NEXT RACE... I WANT TO PARTICIPATE...
便所
TELL THE TEACHER YOU'RE NOT RUNNING BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT FEELING WELL!
JUST LIKE DURING THE TUG-OF-WAR,
BUT THIS TIME...
THEN THE RED TEAM'S SCORE WILL DROP.
NO WAY! YOU'LL JUST COME IN LAST ANYWAY.
8
CRYBABY WIMP! GO THROW OUT THE TRASH!
HA HA, YOU'RE CRYING!
GO AWAY, YOU WIMP!
I SAID NO! SOMEONE LIKE YOU IS JUST A HINDRANCE!

……
便所
IT'S ME, UNCLE SHIRO! SORRY THAT I'M LATE!
HEY! MASASHI-KUN.
HUH?
ポン
9
THE NEXT EVENT IS THE PARENT-CHILD RACE. ALL PARTICIPANTS, PLEASE...
YAMAOKA-SAN, KURITA-SAN, HURRY UP!

ALRIGHT!
ぐぐいい
ギュ
HITOSHI!
ぐっ
YOU JUST WATCHED MASASHI BEING TREATED COLDLY BY EVERYONE,
YOU DIDN'T TRY TO HELP.
AND DIDN'T TRY TO HELP HIM, WHICH IS THE SAME AS TREATING MASASHI COLDLY YOURSELF.
YOU BECAME PART OF THE BULLYING YOURSELF.
HUH...?!
10
I DON'T WANT TO RUN HAND IN HAND WITH SOMEONE LIKE THAT.
I'M GOING TO RUN WITH MASASHI, SEE YOU.
YAMAOKA-SAN...!

11

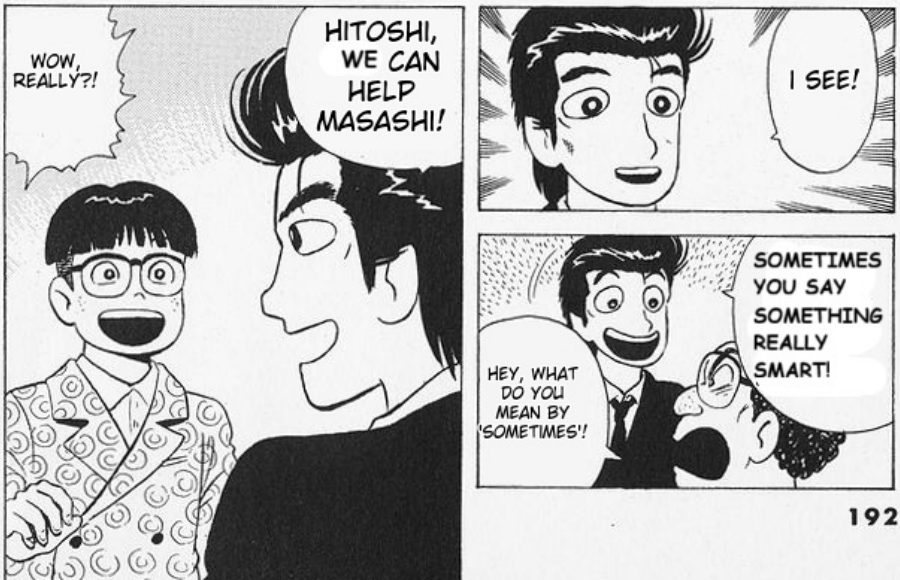


HYAAAH!
GUUGYAA!
東西新聞社
YOU BETRAYED ME!!!
YOU! I HEARD YOU DIDN'T RUN WITH HITOSHI IN THE PARENT-CHILD RACE?!
はぁはぁ
TOMII-SAN!
ボカ
ボカ
ボカ
YOU BASTARD, I'LL KILL YOU!
12
YOU BULLIED HIM AND RAN THE RACE WITH SOME OTHER KID!!!
SINCE THE SPORTS FESTIVAL, HITOSHI HAS BEEN DOWN IN THE DUMPS...
N-NO, THAT'S NOT IT...

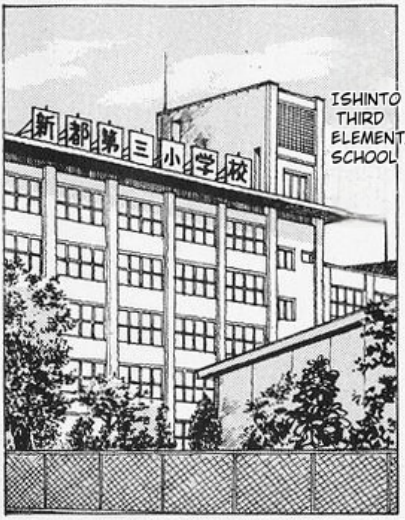
SO... YOU'VE COME TO GET REVENGE!
OH, HITOSHI!
PLEASE LEND YOUR STRENGTH FOR MASASHI.
MR. YAMAOKA.
HUH?
SHUT UP, DAD! BE QUIET!
ALRIGHT! LET'S TAKE DOWN YAMAOKA TOGETHER, SON!
THAT'S WHY I TRIED TO GET EVERYONE TO STOP THE BULLYING.
THEN, JUST LIKE YAMAOKA SAID, IT WOULD BE THE SAME AS ME BULLYING MASASHI...
13
I'VE JUST BEEN WATCHING MASASHI GET BULLIED WITHOUT DOING ANYTHING.

WOW, THAT'S HARSH.
WHO WOULD LIKE A PALE, WIMPY GUY LIKE A BEAN SPROUT...?
BUT NO ONE LISTENS TO WHAT I SAY.
THEY REALLY DON'T LIKE BEAN SPROUTS, HUH.
AND THEY ASSOCIATE MASASHI-KUN WITH THE BAD IMAGE OF BEAN SPROUTS.
THE REASON THEY LACK COMPASSION FOR THOSE WEAKER THAN THEMSELVES IS THAT THEY HAVE NEVER BEEN WRAPPED IN WARM KINDNESS...
COMPETITION, COMPETITION, AND IN THE PROCESS, WE LOSE OUR HUMAN ABILITY TO CARE FOR OTHERS.
JAPANESE SOCIETY IS REALLY MESSED UP.

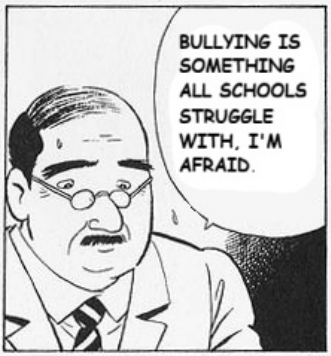
14

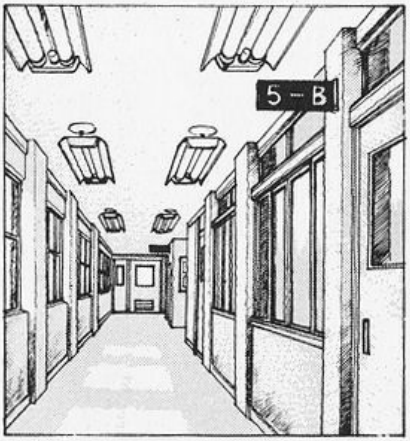

WOW, REALLY?!
HITOSHI, WE CAN HELP MASASHI!
I SEE!
HEY, WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY 'SOMETIMES'!
SOMETIMES YOU SAY SOMETHING REALLY SMART!

I'VE BEEN TRYING MY BEST TO MAKE IT STOP...
WE ARE ALSO AWARE OF THE BULLYING TOWARDS MASASHI,


新都第三小学校
ISHINTO THIRD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

IF ALL GOES WELL, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO PUT AN END TO THE BULLYING AGAINST MASASHI.
WELL, THERE IS ONE THING WE WOULD LIKE TO DO REGARDING THIS MATTER.
OH, WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO...?

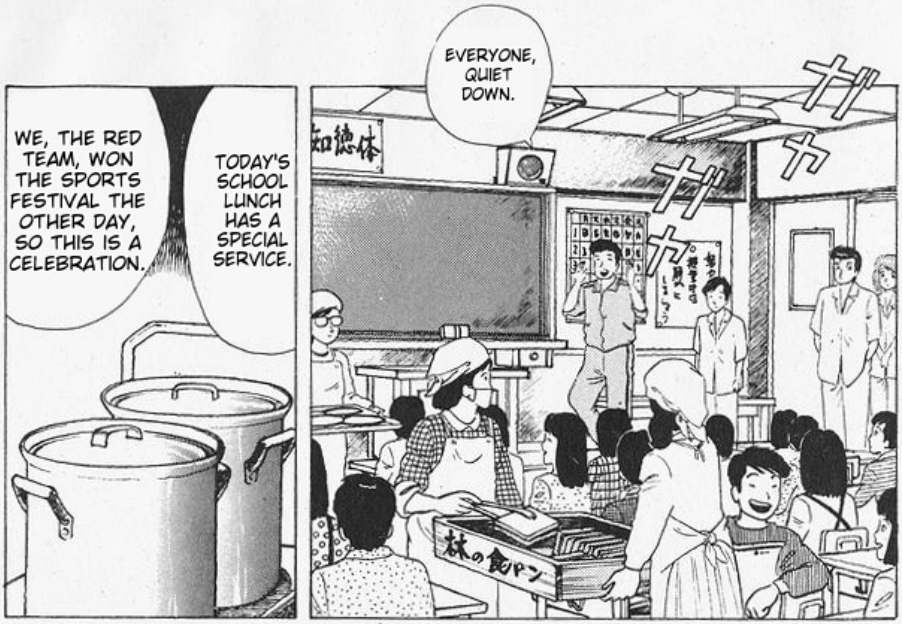

BULLYING IS SOMETHING ALL SCHOOLS STRUGGLE WITH, I'M AFRAID.

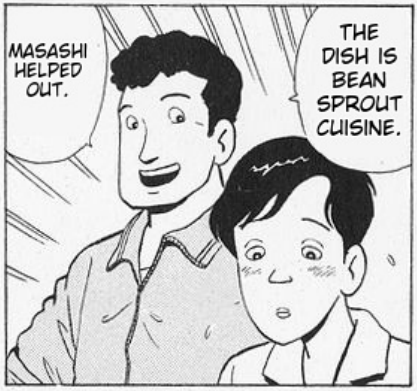

5 — B

WE WOULD LIKE TO BORROW THE SCHOOL LUNCH KITCHEN.

15

EH...?


EVERYONE, QUIET DOWN.
TODAY'S SCHOOL LUNCH HAS A SPECIAL SERVICE.
WE, THE RED TEAM, WON THE SPORTS FESTIVAL THE OTHER DAY, SO THIS IS A CELEBRATION.
知徳体
林の食パン


THE DISH IS BEAN SPROUT CUISINE.
MASASHI HELPED OUT.

IT'S A SPECIAL SERVICE!
わあ
WHAT COULD IT BE?

WHY IS MASASHI OVER THERE?

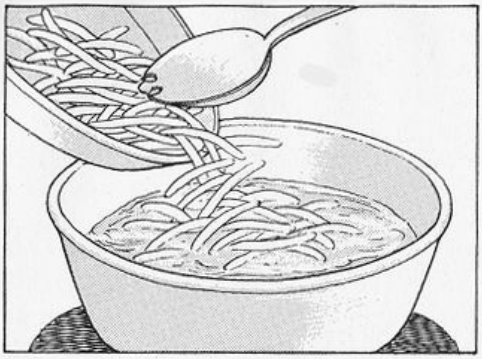
16

FIRST OF ALL, CAN A BEAN SPROUT EVEN COOK -!?
ゲラゲラ

HEHEHE! THE BEAN SPROUT IS COOKING BEAN SPROUTS!
IT'S CANNIBALISM -!!

DELICIOUS!

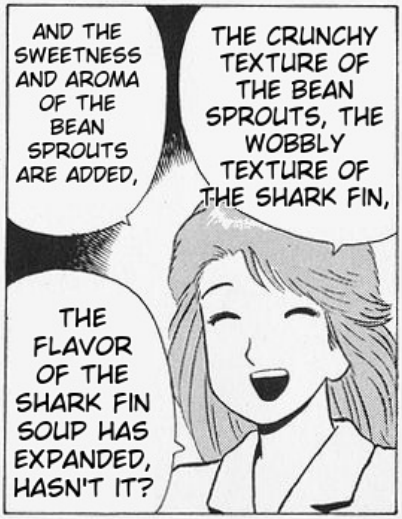
IT'S ONE OF THE BEST DISHES IN CHINESE CUISINE.
FIRST, IT'S SHARK FIN SOUP.
ALRIGHT, LET'S HAVE THE LUNCH DUTY PEOPLE HELP OUT WITH THE DISTRIBUTION.
17
TRY DRINKING THE SOUP JUST AS IT IS FIRST.
IS THIS BEAN SPROUTS ON THE PLATE?
WOW, IT LOOKS DELICIOUS!
I'LL RESERVE FOR A SECOND HELPING!
IT'S SO GOOD!!
YUKI



NEXT, ADD THE STIR-FRIED BEAN SPROUTS INTO THE SOUP,
TRY DRINKING THE SOUP WITH THE BEAN SPROUTS.

IT'S WAY BETTER THAN JUST THE SOUP!
WOW——! IT GOT EVEN TASTIER!

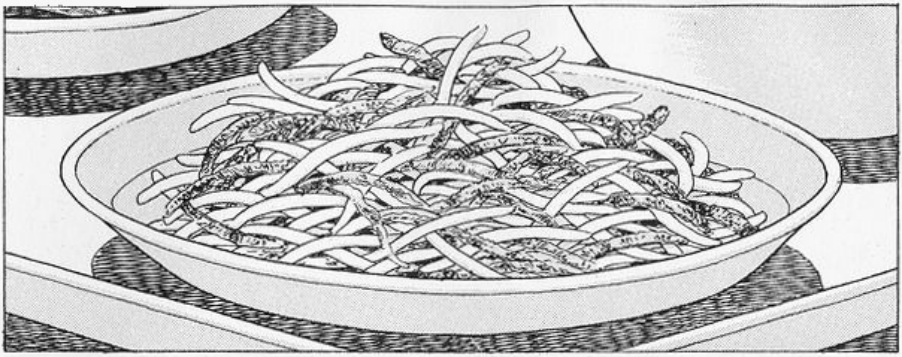
BEAN SPROUTS ARE THIS DELICIOUS?!

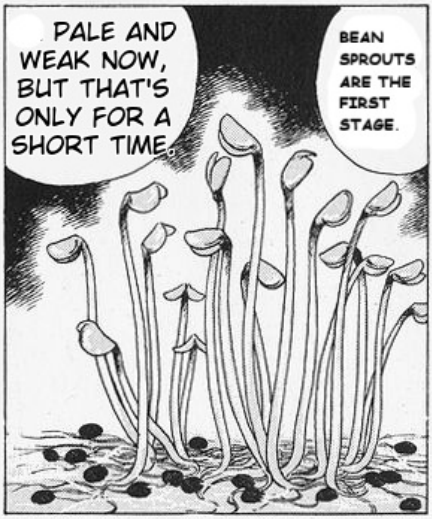

AND THE SWEETNESS AND AROMA OF THE BEAN SPROUTS ARE ADDED,
THE CRUNCHY TEXTURE OF THE BEAN SPROUTS, THE WOBBLY TEXTURE OF THE SHARK FIN,
THE FLAVOR OF THE SHARK FIN SOUP HAS EXPANDED, HASN'T IT?

18

IT'S SEASONED WITH SALT AND PEPPER.
THE NEXT DISH IS STIR-FRIED BEAN SPROUTS WITH THIN OMELET CUT INTO STRIPS.

DELICIOUS!





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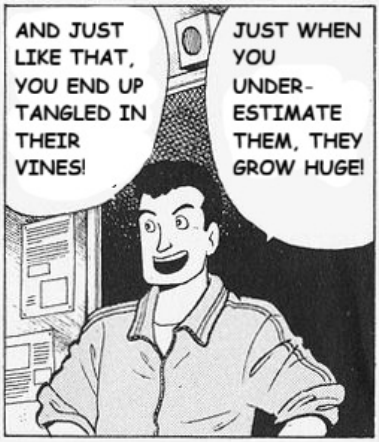
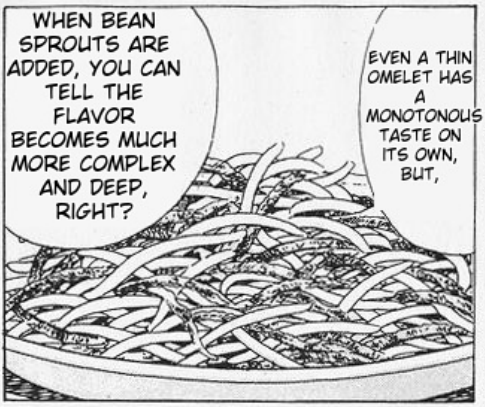
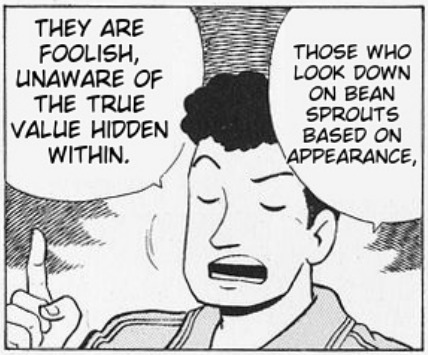



WHEN BEAN SPROUTS ARE ADDED, YOU CAN TELL THE FLAVOR BECOMES MUCH MORE COMPLEX AND DEEP, RIGHT?
EVEN A THIN OMELET HAS A MONOTONOUS TASTE ON ITS OWN, BUT,

EVEN ONE OF THE BEST DISHES IN CHINESE CUISINE CAN BECOME EVEN MORE DELICIOUS THANKS TO BEAN SPROUTS.


THEY ARE FOOLISH, UNAWARE OF THE TRUE VALUE HIDDEN WITHIN.
THOSE WHO LOOK DOWN ON BEAN SPROUTS BASED ON APPEARANCE,

BEAN SPROUTS HAVE AN AMAZING POWER.
PLUS, THEY HAVE NUTRITIONAL VALUE TOO.

20

BUT TAKING OFF THE HEAD AND ROOTS IS TOUGH; YOU HAVE TO DO IT BY HAND, ONE BY ONE.
WITH THE HEAD AND ROOTS ON, THE TEXTURE IS BAD, AND THE TASTE ISN'T REFRESHING.

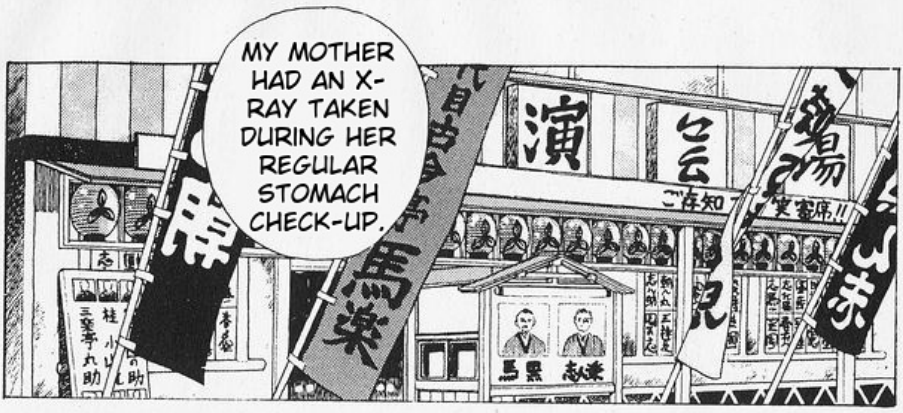
IT HAS THE HEAD AND ROOTS TAKEN OFF, RIGHT?
EVERYONE, LOOK AT THAT BEAN SPROUT.

DELICIOUS!

IT WAS MASASHI WHO TOOK THESE HEADS AND ROOTS OF THE BEAN SPROUTS.
MASASHI TOOK ALL THE HEADS AND ROOTS OF THE BEAN SPROUTS BY HIMSELF.
MASASHI DID?!
ALL BY HIMSELF!
WOW, IS THAT TRUE?!
MASASHI IS HELPING YOU ALL BY PREPARING DELICIOUS BEAN SPROUT DISHES TO EAT,
YIKES DIVIDE
IF THAT MEANS BEING ACKNOWLEDGED BY YOU AND BEING ACCEPTED AS ONE OF YOU, HE SAID HE WOULD DO HIS BEST EVEN IF IT MEANT DYING.
IT'S HUMAN NATURE FOR THE STRONG TO PROTECT AND HELP THE WEAK, RIGHT?
MASASHI PUSHED HIS WEAK BODY AND WORKED HARD.
FOR YOU, WHO HAVE STRONGER BODIES THAN MASASHI.
……
……

YOU REALLY DO HAVE GUTS, DON'T YOU?
I'M SORRY, MASASHI.
WE SHOULD'VE HELPED YOU. YOU PROVED THAT YOU WERE STRONGER THAN ALL OF US.
I'M SORRY, MASASHI.
YOU'RE NOT WEAK, MASASHI.
WE WERE COWARDLY.
22

第10話
白身魚の芸


MY MOTHER HAD AN X-RAY TAKEN DURING HER REGULAR STOMACH CHECK-UP.
馬楽
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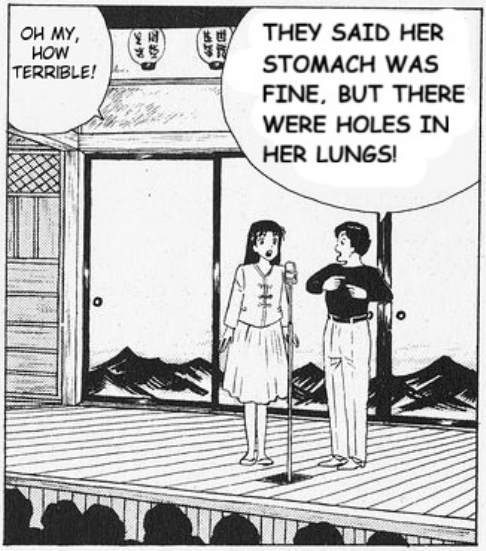
IF THERE WERE HOLES IN MY LUNGS, I WOULD BE DEAD!

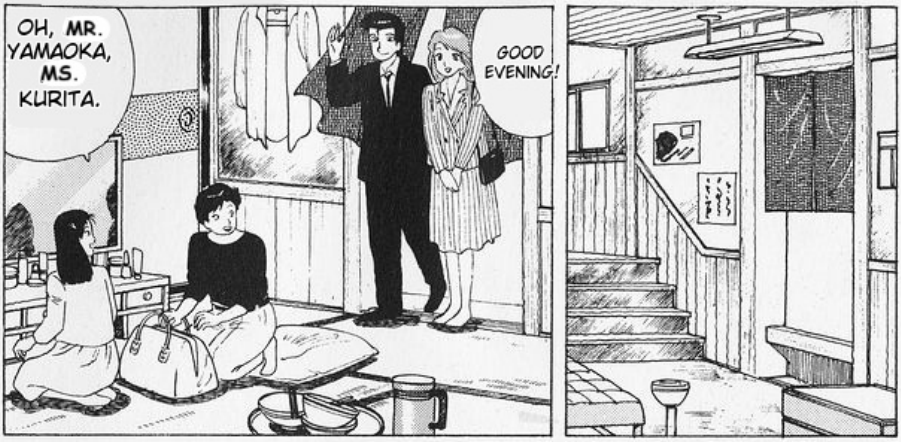

OH MY, HOW TERRIBLE!
THEY SAID HER STOMACH WAS FINE, BUT THERE WERE HOLES IN HER LUNGS!

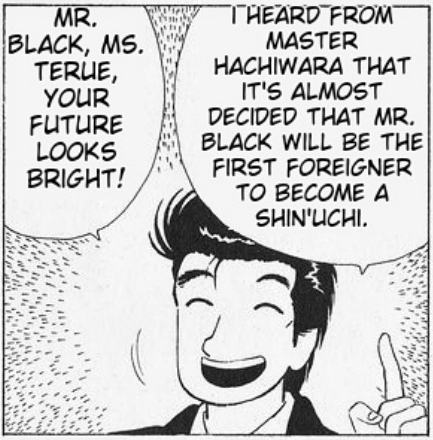
REALLY, MY MOTHER IS CRYING SAYING SHE CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE, AND THE WHOLE FAMILY IS IN AN UPROAR!

2

IT LOOKED LIKE THERE WERE HOLES IN MY LUNGS BECAUSE THE AREA WITH THE MAGNET WAS WHITE.
BUT YOU KNOW, WHEN I CHECKED, MY MOTHER HAD THE MAGNETIC PATCH ON WHILE GETTING THE X-RAY.
THAT'S RIDICULOUS!

DELICIOUS SLICES 23





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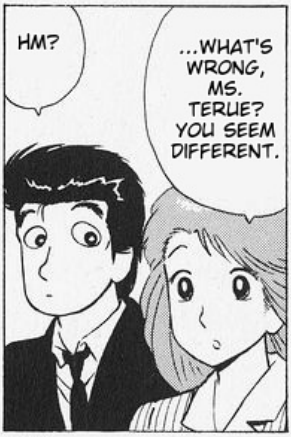
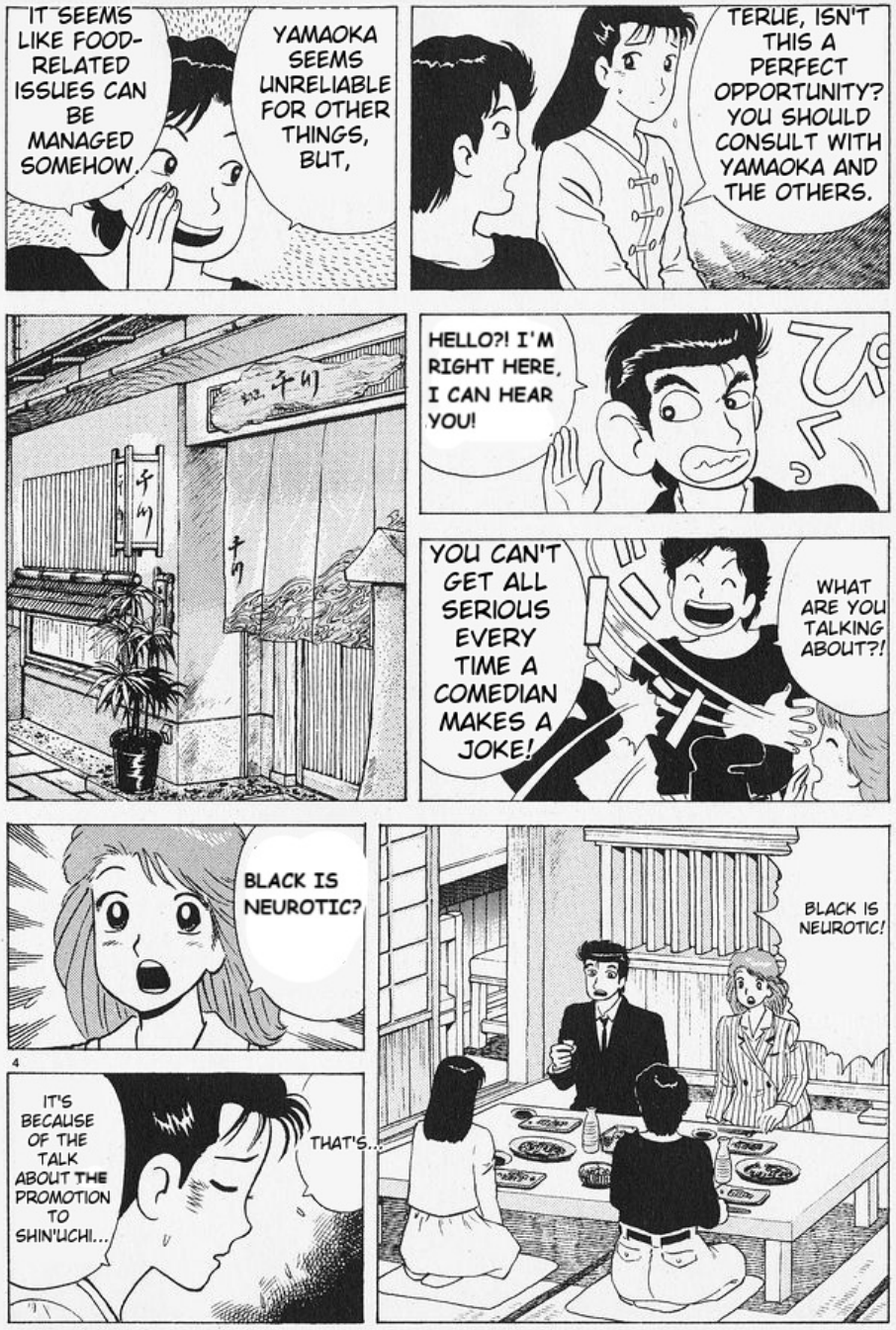
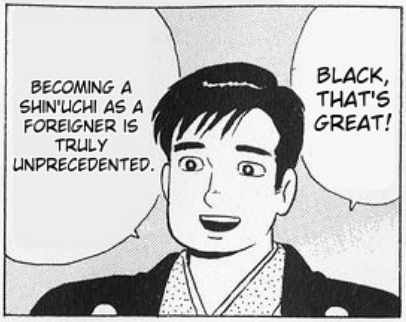
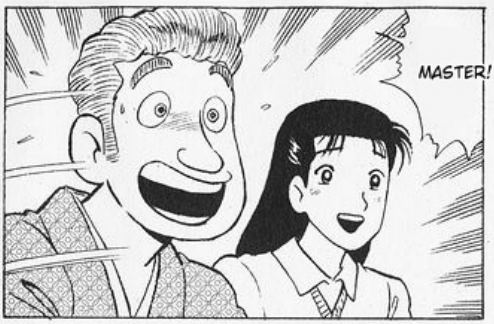



IT SEEMS LIKE FOOD-RELATED ISSUES CAN BE MANAGED SOMEHOW.
YAMAOKA SEEMS UNRELIABLE FOR OTHER THINGS, BUT,
TERUE, ISN'T THIS A PERFECT OPPORTUNITY? YOU SHOULD CONSULT WITH YAMAOKA AND THE OTHERS.
HELLO?! I'M RIGHT HERE, I CAN HEAR YOU!
YOU CAN'T GET ALL SERIOUS EVERY TIME A COMEDIAN MAKES A JOKE!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
BLACK IS NEUROTIC?
4
IT'S BECAUSE OF THE TALK ABOUT THE PROMOTION TO SHIN'UCHI...
THAT'S...
BLACK IS NEUROTIC!

DELICIOUS SLICES 23

WELL... PLEASE LISTEN TO ME...
GO AHEAD AND TELL ME.
MR. BLACK, WHAT HAPPENED?
ALL THE BOARD MEMBERS PRAISED YOUR REMARKABLE PROGRESS.
AT THE BOARD MEETING THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY, YOUR PROMOTION TO FULL-FLEDGED PERFORMER WAS BROUGHT UP AS A TOPIC.
IS IT REALLY TRUE?
6
IT HAS ALMOST BEEN DECIDED THAT YOU WILL BE PROMOTED IN THE REGULAR PROMOTION PERIOD THREE MONTHS FROM NOW.
IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT YOU MAY BE PROMOTED TO A FULL-FLEDGED PERFORMER.
POPULARITY IS ON THE RISE, AND THE REPUTATION FROM THE THEATER IS ALSO VERY GOOD.


BECOMING A SHIN'UCHI AS A FOREIGNER IS TRULY UNPRECEDENTED.
BLACK, THAT'S GREAT!


MASTER!

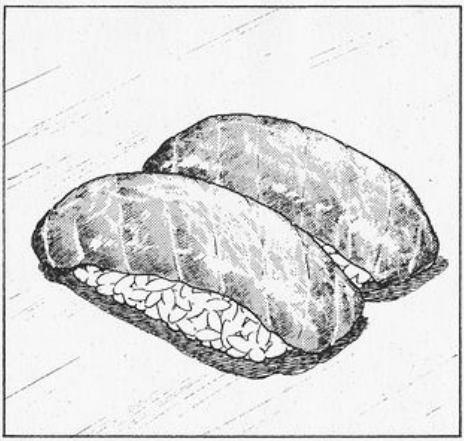
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
OH MY!

ONCE THE PROMOTION IS ANNOUNCED, YOU'LL BE SET TO GET MARRIED, EH?

BROTHER, THANK YOU SO MUCH!

I CONSIDER IT AN HONOR.
THAT'S QUITE AN ACCOMPLISHMENT, THE FIRST FOREIGNER TO BECOME A SHIN'UCHI.

NOW, COME ON, LET'S DRINK UP.



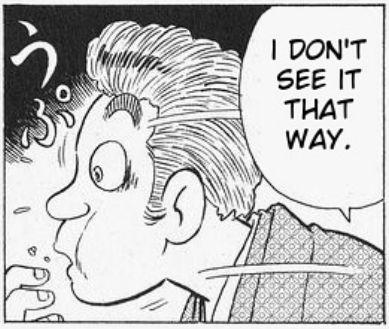
THANK YOU FOR THE MEAL.
NOW, ORDER ANYTHING YOU LIKE.

YES.
THEN I WON'T HOLD BACK, I'LL HAVE THE TORO.

A FOREIGNER BECOMING A TRUE PERFORMER, NOW THAT'S A RARE THING.
HEY, MASTER SANPACHI!

8

RAKUGO IS A FORM OF STORYTELLING, YOU KNOW. FOREIGNERS WHO CAN'T APPRECIATE THE SUBTLE FLAVORS OF THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE,
MIGHT BE ABLE TO MIMIC IT, BUT THERE'S NO WAY THEY CAN MASTER THE ART TO BECOME A TRUE PERFORMER.

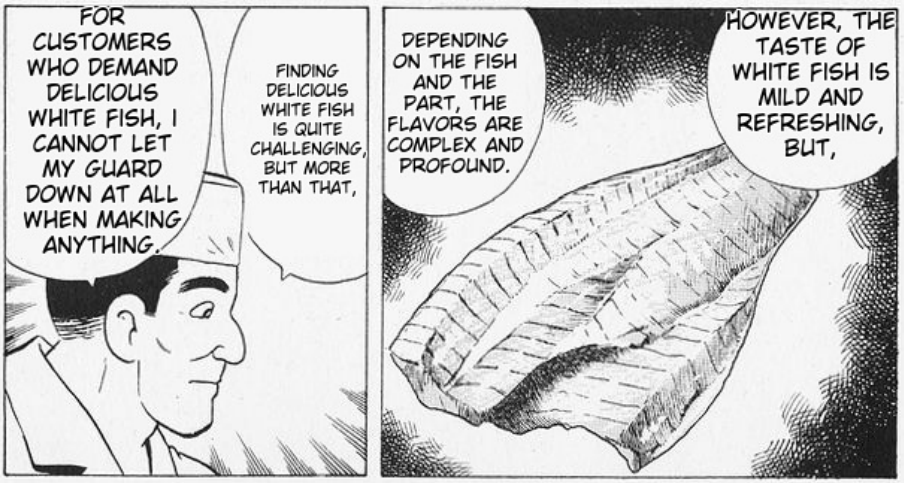

う。
I DON'T SEE IT THAT WAY.

HUH?

DELICIOUS SLICES 23

W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY SCARY?
CUSTOMERS WHO ORDER MAINLY WHITE FISH ARE MORE INTIMIDATING THAN THOSE WHO PREFER FATTY TUNA.
WELL... TO BE HONEST,
IT IS DELICIOUS, BUT IT HAS A SIMPLE AND MONOTONOUS FLAVOR.
THE DELICIOUSNESS OF FATTY TUNA COMES FROM ITS FAT.
IT'S A FLAVOR EVEN CHILDREN CAN UNDERSTAND.
IF YOU SERVE SOMETHING STRANGE TO SUCH CUSTOMERS, YOU WILL GET SCOLDED.
YES, THEY ARE CUSTOMERS WHO TRULY UNDERSTAND FLAVOR.
WHY ARE CUSTOMERS WHO PREFER WHITE FISH SCARY, BUT THOSE WHO LIKE FATTY TUNA ARE NOT?

10


FOR CUSTOMERS WHO DEMAND DELICIOUS WHITE FISH, I CANNOT LET MY GUARD DOWN AT ALL WHEN MAKING ANYTHING.
FINDING DELICIOUS WHITE FISH IS QUITE CHALLENGING, BUT MORE THAN THAT,
DEPENDING ON THE FISH AND THE PART, THE FLAVORS ARE COMPLEX AND PROFOUND.
HOWEVER, THE TASTE OF WHITE FISH IS MILD AND REFRESHING, BUT,

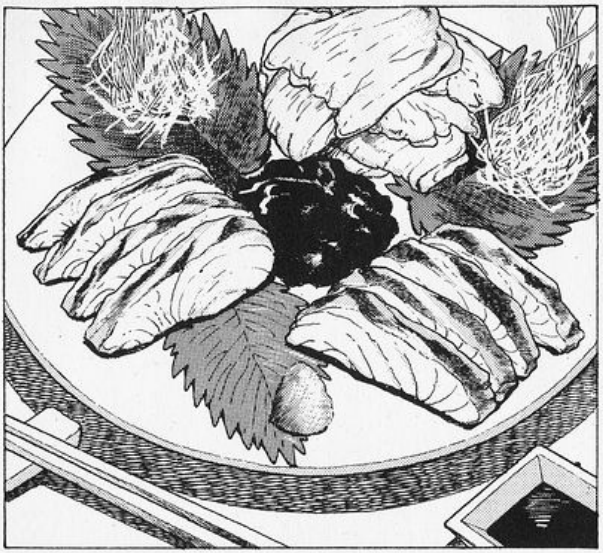
DELICIOUS SLICES 23

11

THAT'S RIGHT! MASTER SANPACHI IS A REAL DICK AND A BULLY! EVERYONE KNOWS IT!
I'M TELLING THIS PERSON NOT TO WORRY ABOUT WHAT MASTER SANPACHI SAYS...
ME DOING RAKUGO LIKE THIS...
SOMEONE WHO CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE IN THE TASTE OF WHITE FISH WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND THE SUBTLETY OF THE JAPANESE SENSIBILITY...
NO, NO... MASTER SANPACHI HAS A POINT, REALLY...
I KNEW IT, HAHA!
ヒヒヒ
IF YOU CAN'T APPRECIATE THE REFINED TASTE OF WHITE FISH, IT'S GOING TO BE TOUGH TO TOUCH UPON THE EMOTIONS OF THE JAPANESE PEOPLE THROUGH RAKUGO, RIGHT?
JUST AS MASTER SANPACHI SAYS.
WHOA! WAIT, WAIT, LISTEN TO THE WHOLE STORY!
HOW INSENSITIVE! WHY DON'T YOU HAVE THE DESIRE TO ENCOURAGE BLACK-SAN?

12

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, THAT'S TRUE...
HE'S FAR MORE SENSITIVE TO THE SUBTLE FLAVORS OF TOFU THAN THE AVERAGE JAPANESE PERSON.
A PERSON WHO UNDERSTANDS THE SUBTLE FLAVORS OF TOFU SHOULDN'T HAVE TROUBLE WITH THE TASTE OF WHITE FISH.
DIDN'T BLACK COME TO JAPAN ORIGINALLY TO STUDY TOFU?
HM?
BUT I JUST CAN'T QUITE GRASP THE DIFFERENCE IN TASTE...
I'VE EATEN SEA BREAM, FLOUNDER, AND SEA BASS.
I JUST CAN'T GRASP THE BLAND AND REFRESHING TASTE OF WHITE FISH NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY.
WELL...
13
TASTE EXPERIMENT!
EXPERIMENT...?
ALRIGHT, LET'S GO.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?



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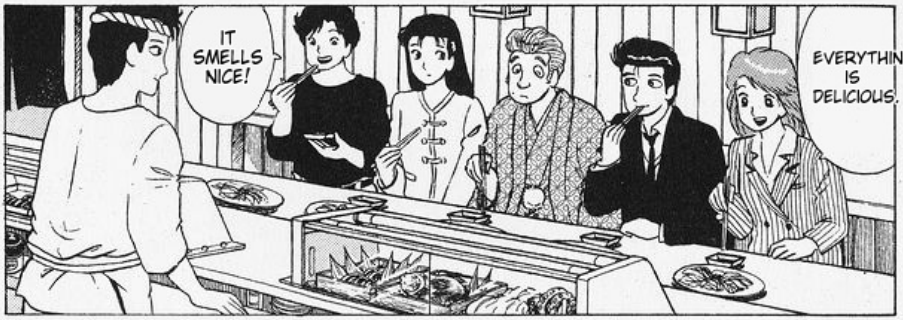

IT SMELLS NICE!
EVERYTHING IS DELICIOUS.

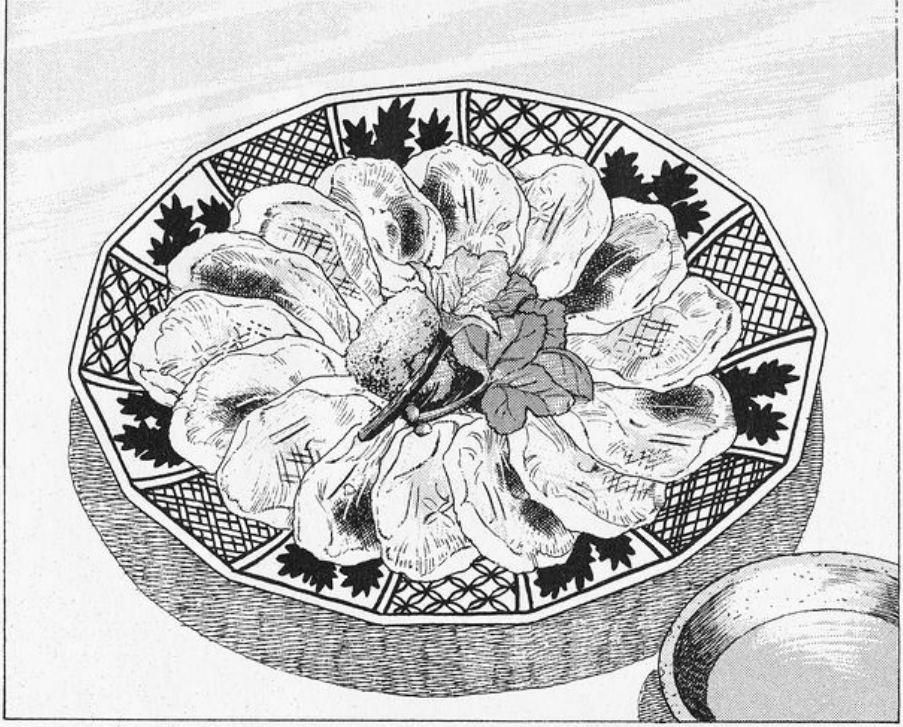
14

?

I SEE.

THEN, NATSUKO-SAN, PLEASE.
SURE.

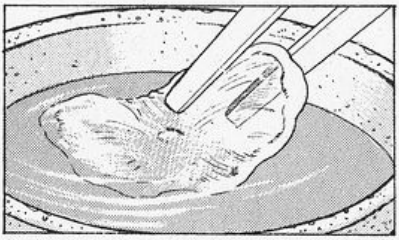
BUT I CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE IN TASTE...
NO, I KNOW IT'S DELICIOUS.



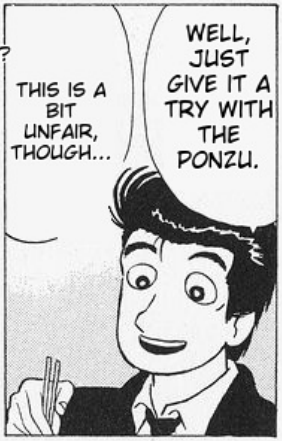
IT LOOKS LIKE FUGU SASHIMI, BUT... IT SEEMS NOT QUITE LIKE THAT.
IT'S REALLY THIN, SO YOU CAN SEE THE PLATE THROUGH IT.

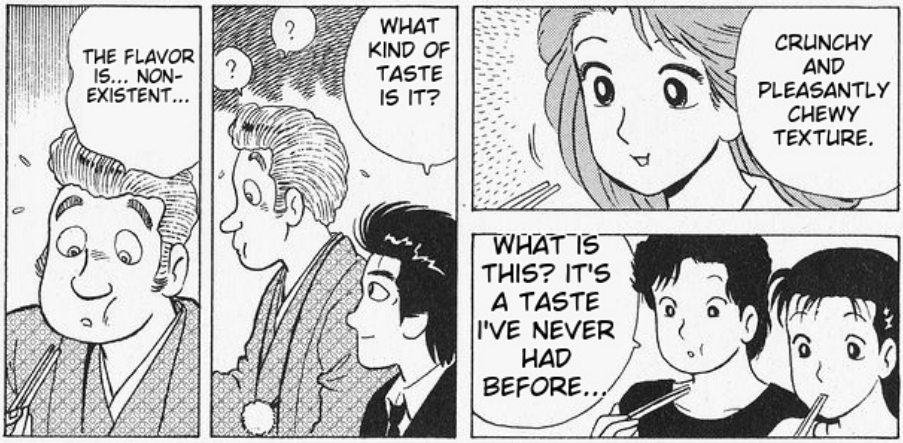
WHAT IS THIS?

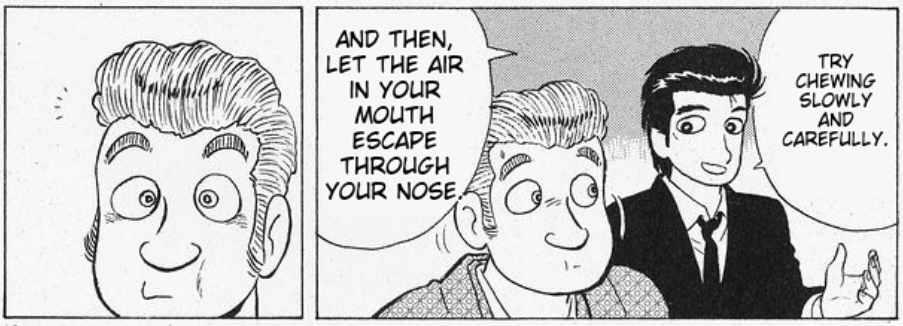
15

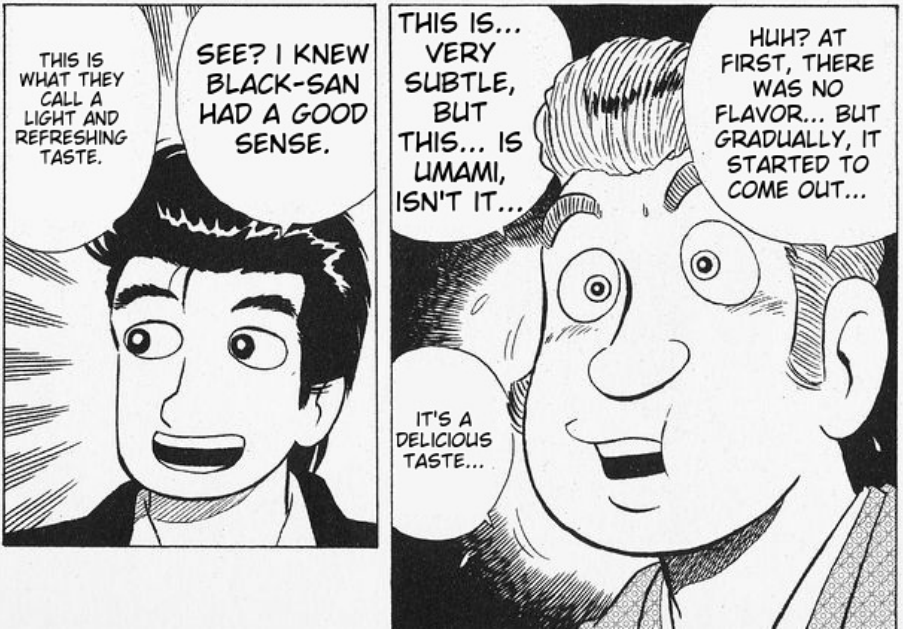


UNFAIR?
WELL, IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE.


THIS IS A BIT UNFAIR, THOUGH...
WELL, JUST GIVE IT A TRY WITH THE PONZU.


THE FLAVOR IS... NON-EXISTENT...
?
?
WHAT KIND OF TASTE IS IT?
CRUNCHY AND PLEASANTLY CHEWY TEXTURE.
WHAT IS THIS? IT'S A TASTE I'VE NEVER HAD BEFORE...

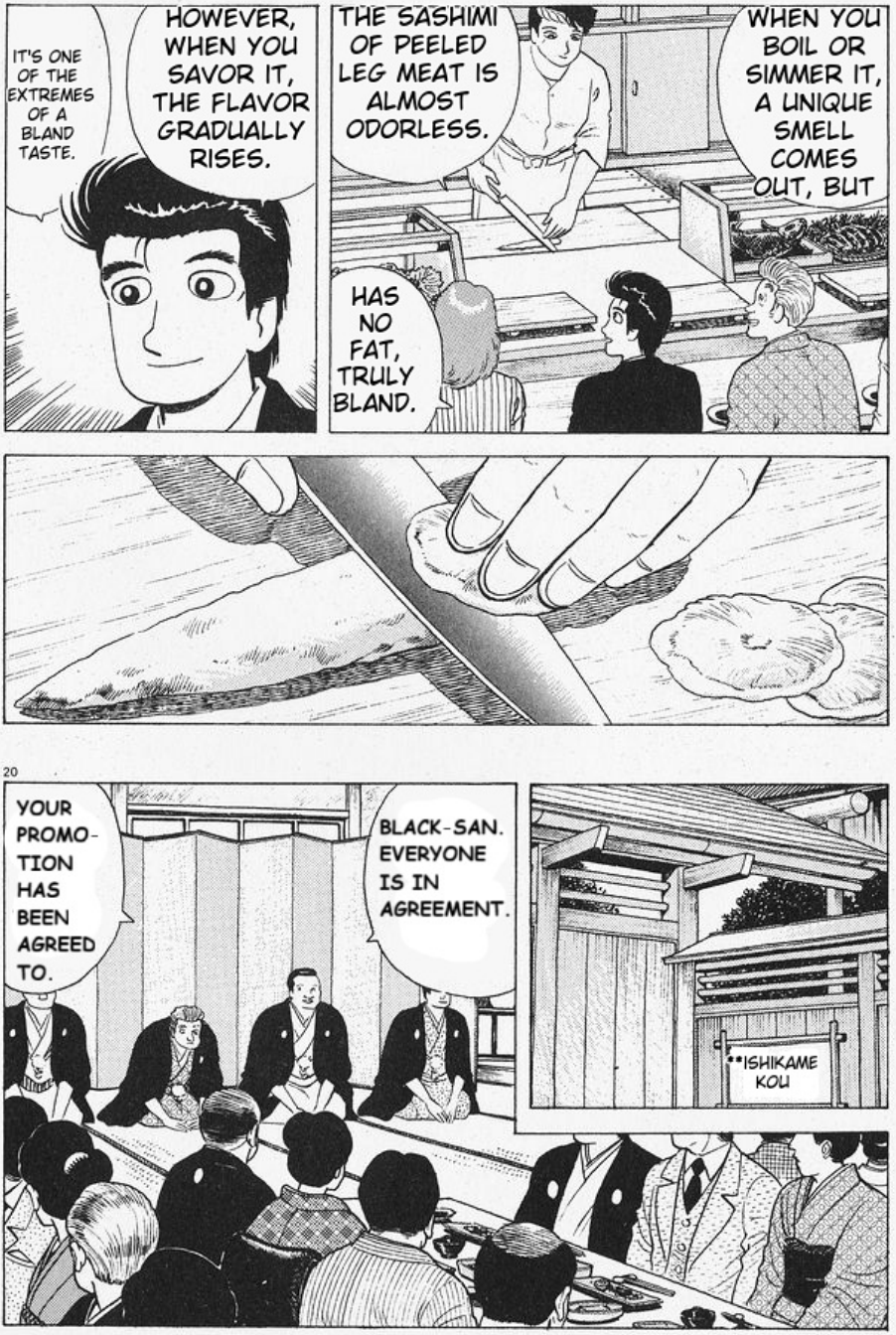

AND THEN, LET THE AIR IN YOUR MOUTH ESCAPE THROUGH YOUR NOSE.
TRY CHEWING SLOWLY AND CAREFULLY.

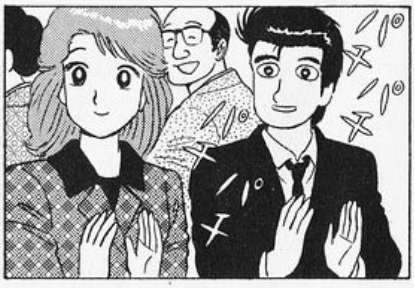

THIS IS WHAT THEY CALL A LIGHT AND REFRESHING TASTE.
SEE? I KNEW BLACK-SAN HAD A GOOD SENSE.
THIS IS... VERY SUBTLE, BUT THIS... IS UMAMI, ISN'T IT...
HUH? AT FIRST, THERE WAS NO FLAVOR... BUT GRADUALLY, IT STARTED TO COME OUT...
IT'S A DELICIOUS TASTE...

DELICIOUS SLICES 23

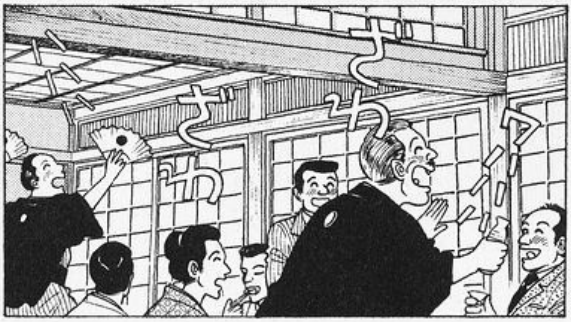
I SEE, I SEE.
IF YOU FIRMLY GRASP THAT TASTE, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IS ADDED ON TOP OF IT.
IT'S BLAND, REFRESHING, AND HAS A TASTE THAT IS CLOSE TO TASTELESS.
BUT WHAT SHOULD BE SAVORED IS THE TASTE OF THE WHITE FISH ON THIS LAST PLATE.
HOWEVER, FOR THOSE LIKE BLACK-SAN WHO HAVE GROWN UP PRIMARILY EATING MEAT, IT MIGHT NOT BE A FAMILIAR SENSATION.
WE JAPANESE HAVE BEEN EATING FISH, SO WE'VE EXPERIENCED THIS LIGHT AND REFRESHING TASTE REPEATEDLY FROM AN EARLY AGE.
I FEEL LIKE I CAN NOW VAGUELY DISCERN THE DIFFERENCES IN TASTE!
YOU'RE RIGHT!
YOU'LL EVEN BE ABLE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN SNAPPER, FLOUNDER, AND SEA BASS.
ONCE YOU UNDERSTAND THIS BLAND, REFRESHING, AND ALMOST TASTELESS FLAVOR, YOU'LL START TO RECOGNIZE VARIOUS SUBTLE TASTES.
18
THANK YOU, YAMAOKA-SAN!
YOU'RE ALMOST THERE, BLACK-SAN.

DELICIOUS SLICES 23


IT'S ONE OF THE EXTREMES OF A BLAND TASTE.
HOWEVER, WHEN YOU SAVOR IT, THE FLAVOR GRADUALLY RISES.
THE SASHIMI OF PEELED LEG MEAT IS ALMOST ODORLESS.
WHEN YOU BOIL OR SIMMER IT, A UNIQUE SMELL COMES OUT, BUT
HAS NO FAT, TRULY BLAND.
20
YOUR PROMO-TION HAS BEEN AGREED TO.
BLACK-SAN. EVERYONE IS IN AGREEMENT.
**ISHIKAME KOU



I HOPE YOU WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT BLACK-SAN.
I WOULD LIKE TO OFFER A DRINK TO EVERYONE.



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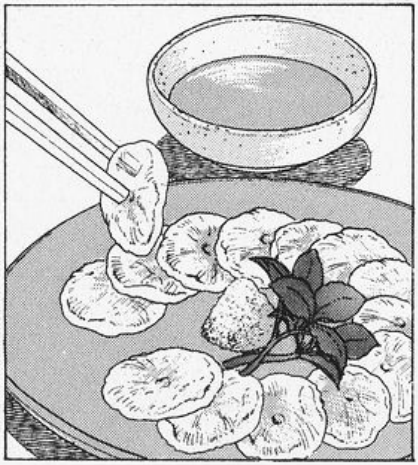

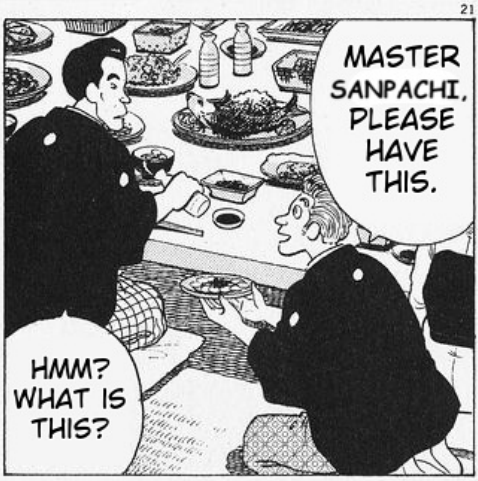
MASTER SANPACHI, PLEASE HAVE THIS.
HMM? WHAT IS THIS?

'OISHINBO' VOLUME 23-THE END-

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